

THE
MONTHLY ANTHOLOGY,

FOR
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BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

The following MEMOIR, concerning the history, objects, and present state of the Boston Athenæum, with the terms and principles, on which the rights and privileges of the institution shall be possessed and exercised, and with remarks on the MERITS of the design, is respectfully submitted to the friends of improvement.

HISTORY, OBJECTS, AND PRESENT STATE.

FOR several years individuals in this metropolis have expressed their wishes, that there might be established here a publick Reading-Room ; to be kept constantly open, and to contain all the valuable journals, foreign and domestick, periodical publications, books of general reference, and other works adapted to such a place of resort. It has been thought, that an establishment of this kind, which is very common both in the large and small cities of Europe, would, if commenced here, receive liberal support, and be regarded as auxiliary to literature and to business ; useful to the publick, and honourable to its founders and patrons. Having these impressions of the merit and popularity of the object, a society of gentlemen, who conduct a literary publication,* during the last year issued proposals, in which they engaged to provide a room of the forementioned description, open at ten dollars annually to each subscriber. The design was so favourably received, and so diligently pursued, that the subscription list was soon filled with a large number of respectable names. In consequence of this success, and in compliance with the wishes of many patrons of the undertaking, it was determined to extend the plan by adding a Library to the foundation. There was no room to doubt, that this addition might be made, and still the engagements

relative to the Reading-Room be more than executed. By the time the journals and periodical publications were received, more than a thousand volumes of valuable works, principally donations, were collected and annexed to the institution. At this stage of the undertaking, the gentlemen, who had commenced and so far conducted it, in order more effectually to secure and diffuse the benefit of their past labour and expense, and realize their wishes of a respectable establishment, transferred their right and title in the Anthology Reading-Room and Library to certain persons denominated Trustees, with power to supply vacancies in their number, and to hold and manage said Reading-Room and Library, as a trust, under their then present name ; or to become a body corporate under the same or any other name, as they might deem expedient. The Trustees proceeded to open the rooms in such apartments and with such inspection, as they could conveniently obtain ; but which they have since changed from Congress-street to Scollay's buildings, Tremont-street, where the subscribers are invited, and where they will find a degree of order and attention, which the former situation did not admit. At the same time they issued a printed sheet, containing regulations and by-laws for the conduct of the institution, which remain in force in respect to annual subscribers, and which will undoubtedly be, in substance, adop-

* The Monthly Anthology.

ted under the new form, which the establishment may assume, pursuant to the act of incorporation.

The Trustees conceived it expedient, and immediately took measures, to procure an act of incorporation for themselves and their future associates. In the act for this purpose, with a view to meet the sentiments and wishes of respectable persons friendly to the general design, they obtained powers to comprehend, in the establishment, other objects, relative to the sciences and arts, to be provided for in such an extent, as may consist with the primary design of founding a Library and Reading-Room. By these means, when the whole plan of the institution shall be executed, it will be subservient not only to the acquisition, but to the communication of knowledge; answering the double purpose of inquiry and instruction. In consequence of this enlargement of the plan, a name of more extensive signification, than the former one, was adopted, and the Trustees, with their associates, are made a body corporate by the title of the Proprietors of the BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

The Proprietors have entered upon the execution of the powers, vested in them by the act of incorporation. After the choice of the necessary officers, they proceeded to devise methods for increasing the funds of the said corporation, and extending the rights and privileges, which they had acquired. The result of their deliberations is here communicated.

That the nature and design of the establishment may fully appear, having offered a sketch of the *history*, they will next give a particular account of the

Objects of the Athenæum.

The first department of the Athenæum is the READING-ROOM, which it is proposed to have large and commodious. It is to be furnished with seats, tables, pens, ink, and paper; and to contain all the celebrated gazettes, published in any part of the United States, with the most interesting literary and political pamphlets in Europe and

America, with magazines, reviews, and scientific journals in the English, French, and other modern languages, memoirs of learned societies, London and Paris newspapers, Steele's army and navy list, naval chronicle, London and Paris booksellers' catalogues, parliamentary debates, bibliographical works, journals of the congress of the United States, laws of congress and of the state legislatures, American state papers, maps, charts, the latest voyages and travels, and the interesting publications of the day, as they appear. The gazettes, magazines, and pamphlets, journals, state papers, &c. to be bound in volumes, and carefully preserved for the use of the institution.

The next branch of the Athenæum is the LIBRARY, designed to contain, in a separate apartment, the works of learning and science in all languages; particularly such rare and expensive publications, as are not generally to be obtained in this country; the most valuable encyclopedias of the arts and sciences in the English and French languages; standard dictionaries of the learned and principal modern languages; also dictionaries, critical and biographical; books of general reference, useful to the merchant and the scholar; and finally, the works of all the best authors, ancient and modern.

These apartments are to be open during every week-day and evening. None of the papers or periodical works are to be taken from the rooms, except in the case of the indisposition of any proprietor or subscriber, who may have the use of the newspapers at his house, at some convenient time after their arrival, under such regulations, as shall be prescribed. Duplicates are to be provided of all those books permitted to circulate, it being intended that one copy of every work belonging to the Library shall always remain in it; so that the proprietors and visitors of the Athenæum may be certain at all times of finding any work, which they may have occasion to read or consult.

The Reading-Room and Library, being considered leading objects and chief departments of the Athenæum, it is proposed, as far as can be done without detriment to them, to join to the foundation a MUSEUM or CABINET, which shall contain specimens from the three kingdoms of nature, scientifically arranged; natural and artificial curiosities, antiques, coins, medals, vases, gems, and intaglios; also, in the same or a different apartment, a REPOSITORY OF ARTS, in which shall be placed for inspection models of new and useful machines; likewise drawings, designs, paintings, engravings, statues, and other objects of the fine arts, and especially the productions of our native artists.

Lastly...the plan of the Athenæum includes a LABORATORY, and an APPARATUS for experiments in chemistry and natural philosophy, for astronomical observations, and geographical improvements, to be used under the direction of the corporation.

The history of this establishment, and a description of its objects being given, it is proper to exhibit

The means, resources, and present state of the Athenæum.

The Reading-Room is largely supplied with the works mentioned above, and is receiving daily additions.

The Library already contains many interesting and important works. The number of volumes is more than twelve hundred, and is continually increasing by donations and deposits, as well as by purchase. There is reason to believe, that, when the apartments shall be sufficiently capacious to admit them, one or more of the libraries, belonging to particular societies or individuals, will be annexed to the Athenæum, or be placed on the shelves of its Library.

The means and resources, now possessed by this institution, are...

1st....The annual subscription; there being one hundred and sixty subscribers, at ten dollars a year.

2nd....The American papers and

publications, with several periodical publications from abroad, are furnished by the proprietors of the Monthly Anthology free of expense; and the net funds of the same work are appropriated to the support and increase of the Reading-Room and Library.

3rd....An apparatus of value, belonging to a society for the study of natural philosophy, is offered to be incorporated with the Athenæum on favourable conditions; so that this part of the establishment cannot, at present, require any considerable expense.

4th....It is well to observe, that, as the institution shall advance in importance and celebrity, donations and legacies may be expected to prove a source of continual additions to the various departments of the Athenæum.

To those, who consider this account of the *history, objects, and present state* of the institution, it will readily occur, that an essential requisite to its enlargement and prosperity is a suitable building in a central part of the town. It will also occur, that the present proprietors are bound to extend the rights, powers, and privileges of proprietors of the Athenæum to others on proper conditions. With a view, therefore, to diffuse and perpetuate the benefits and enjoyments of this establishment, and to raise the necessary funds for a building and other purposes, relative to the general object, the present proprietors offer the plan and terms of subscription to the Boston Athenæum, which are annexed to this memoir.

The objects, the situation, the resources and prospects of this institution being described, and the terms of admission to an interest and power in it proposed, the subject might here be left, without further comment, to the consideration of the enlightened and liberal, in the confidence that all the inducements, publick and private, to espouse the establishment, will have their just operation. But though it may not be necessary, yet it may be useful

and tend to prevent misconception and remove doubt, to show the *merits of the design*, and to justify the method devised for carrying it into effect.

In the apprehension of those, who invite the publick attention to the subject, this institution deserves approbation and support, as productive of utility and enjoyment; as ornamental to the metropolis, and honourable to its patrons. They also conceive, that it is proposed at a suitable time; and that it involves no extravagant demand upon the pecuniary resources, from which the necessary funds are expected.

The Athenæum may be recommended as a place of social intercourse. But it will principally be useful as a source of information, and a means of intellectual improvement and pleasure. It is to be a fountain, at which all, who choose, may gratify their thirst for knowledge.

The value of learning, whatever incidental evils it may produce, is admitted by all, who are qualified to judge upon the subject. Besides the dignity and satisfaction associated with the cultivation of letters and arts, and which constitute their worth to the individual, they have unlimited uses in respect to the community. Speculative and practical philosophy, history, polite literature, and the arts, bear an important relation to all the conveniences and elegancies of life, to all the good institutions of society, and to all the great interests of man, viewed as a rational and social, a moral and religious being. Not only, however, should those deep investigations of science and exquisite refinements of taste, which are necessarily confined to a few, be held in respect, as connected with the general welfare; but that love of intellectual improvement and pleasure, and that propensity to reading and inquiry, which are capable of being diffused through considerable portions of the community, should be regarded with interest and promoted with zeal among a civilized and flourishing people. They belong to

the regular progress of society. A nation, that increases in wealth, without any corresponding increase in knowledge and refinement, in letters and arts, neglects the proper and respectable uses of prosperity. A love of intellectual improvement, and of the various objects of literature and taste, in a state or society enjoying freedom and affluence, is to be coveted and maintained, because it produces the best exercise and application of the faculties; because it strengthens and multiplies the ties, that bind men together; because it enhances the value and satisfaction of social intercourse by supplying worthy and interesting topics of conversation; because it heightens the enjoyment of all the blessings of life, and enables us to derive advantage and pleasure from a multitude of new sources; because, on the whole, it tends to the removal of error and the discovery of truth, and has a friendly aspect upon the interests of virtue and religion.

When we admit the dignity and use of the science of the learned, the taste of the refined, and the improved and cultivated character of the citizens at large, we must also admit, that these objects require a fostering care, and will not be obtained without adequate means and incentives. That the institution here proposed, if well begun and liberally supported, must prove in a high degree auxiliary to these purposes will not, it is presumed, be called in question.

The Athenæum will contain a variety, adapted to the diversity of the dispositions, views, and characters of its patrons and visitors.

Every class of readers must derive profit and pleasure from a constant access to the foreign and domestick journals, and the periodical publications and pamphlets of the day. They must resort with great advantage to a place in which will be found the latest political and commercial intelligence, accounts of the state of literature, arts, and discoveries, the controversies and discussions, that successively prevail, and those fugitive pieces and

small tracts, which it is difficult or impossible for any individual to collect, but which are necessary to satisfy our curiosity, or complete our information concerning the opinions, events, learning, politicks, and manners of the times in which we live. In proportion as this department of the Library and Reading-Room shall be replenished by the accumulations of successive years, its value will be enhanced; and it will descend to posterity a rich and increasing treasure.

By resorting to the Athenæum the man of business will have the means of intellectual activity and enjoyment, without any injurious interruption of his ordinary pursuits, or "the more urgent concerns of life;" and the man of leisure will find ample means of rational and interesting occupation.

The inquisitive merchant must prize the opportunity of being able to consult a large collection of those works, which relate to commerce; as well as find an accommodation in the early and exact commercial intelligence from various and opposite regions of the globe, which the papers and documents in the Reading-Room will generally furnish.

The researches of those, who attend to the constitution of society, the form and administration of governments, politicks, and finance, must be greatly facilitated by the assemblage, in one place, of the best and newest treatises upon these subjects of inquiry, of statistical tables and works, and state papers.

The historian, and the reader of history, will here be able to perfect their information by a recourse to standard works of general and particular history; and especially such as relate to our own country. It is intended, that this institution shall co-operate with others, appropriated to this object, by procuring, as soon as circumstances admit, every tract, book, and journal, serving to illustrate the civil and natural, the literary and ecclesiastical history of America, and more particularly of the United States.

Gentlemen of each of the learned professions must derive impor-

tant assistance, in their respective pursuits, from the liberty of consulting both those fugitive and periodical publications, which may exhibit the history and state of their respective professions, and the sciences and arts, on which they are founded, at successive periods; and also those large, valuable, and expensive works, which it may be inconvenient to most individuals to purchase.

To men of letters, and studious inquirers in general, this establishment will offer facilities in study, hitherto not enjoyed; but highly desirable and even necessary. In this country nothing can exceed the inconvenience, arising from the want of large libraries to those persons, who aim at superiour attainments and accurate researches. This is one of the circumstances, which account for the small number of finished scholars and finished works, of which we have to boast. As much time, as is necessary for reading a particular book, is often consumed in attempts to discover or obtain it; and frequently, after every inquiry, the book wanted cannot be procured. Those who, not content with superficial knowledge, would arrive at exactness in any subjects of science, history, or taste, either give over their pursuit, because destitute of the assistance, which the learned in the same walk have furnished, or continue it under the disadvantage of their ignorance of what has been done by their predecessors. Hence they are liable to be occupied in "solving difficulties, which have already been cleared; discussing questions, which have already been decided; and digging in mines of literature, which former ages have exhausted." If the uses of this institution were more immediately confined, than they are, to literary men, or to those who wish to perfect themselves in sciences and literature, it would be worthy of the munificent spirit of our opulent citizens to give effect to a plan for affording to persons, ambitious of superiour acquisitions, the means of extensive knowledge, and the

gratification of an adequate supply of books.

The good effects, which this establishment may have respecting young persons, deserve particular attention. Where they are of proper age and deportment, they will have access to the rooms of the Athenæum on the same terms as others. The attractions of the place will induce many of them to pass that time in useful reading, which is now wasted or misapplied. Their resort to this fund of instruction and entertainment will tend to inspire them with laudable curiosity. It will serve to withdraw them from gross relaxations and hurtful pleasures, by the desire of enlarging their minds and improving their taste. Parents, who consider the temptations surrounding young men, and the connexion between employment and innocence, will not regard this use of the Athenæum with indifference.

The ladies have at least an indirect interest in this design. Whatever raises the character of men has a favourable influence upon that of the other sex. Undoubtedly when the citizens are sensible and well informed, the intercourse of the sexes is proportionably more rational and agreeable. But if the progress of the institution shall be equal to the wishes and expectations of its friends, it will include a plan of instruction by lectures, on which the ladies will be invited to attend. By their admission to this privilege, as well as by the use of the circulating books of the library, and the right of access to the other apartments, they will have more than an indirect share in the advantages of the Athenæum.

To these different classes of persons, in the several ways described, this institution, and particularly the Library and Reading-Room, will be useful. To the same persons, to others, and to the publick, must the subordinate branches of the Athenæum prove beneficial. The *Repository of Models* is adapted to promote the speedy and general knowledge of new and use-

ful improvements, relating to the necessary arts and trades, and will be resorted to by artisans with particular advantage.

It is well known, that a taste in the fine and pleasing arts cannot be formed, without specimens to serve for example and illustration. By a *Repository* for productions in these arts, we shall provide for the improvement and emulation of artists, and for the correction and refinement of taste in those, who aim to be connoisseurs, and able to bestow praise and censure with discrimination. It concerns the publick interest, as well as honour, that the higher classes of society, and possessors of superfluous wealth, should prefer elegant and innoxious luxuries to those of a different character; and should be patrons and judges of what is excellent in the fine and liberal arts.

The Museum, by its collection of natural objects, scientifically arranged, will both excite and gratify that disposition to study nature, which is always safe, and sometimes profitable and important, by means of the discoveries and improvements to which it leads. This department of the institution will preserve, for constant inspection, a multitude of productions, natural and artificial, either curious or useful, brought from different countries, which are not now obtained; or being obtained, are lost through want of a proper receptacle, in which they may be placed.

The Laboratory and Apparatus may be used, when it shall be found practicable, for the purpose of lectures on chemistry, natural philosophy, and astronomy. The usefulness of a course of popular instruction upon these and other related subjects, calculated to interest the young of both sexes, and to diffuse as well as extend the knowledge of the laws and operations of nature, need not be displayed.

In these respects it is conceived the proposed institution will be productive of utility.

If it is viewed, in the next place, as a source of rational enjoyment, it will appear to merit

the support it requires. It is obvious to all, who attend to human nature, or the history of human society ; and it is verified by observing the state of manners in our own country, that affluence and prosperity are ever attended by a correspondent passion for amusement and pleasure in their diversified forms. It is equally obvious, that whatever serves to correct and regulate this passion is an additional security to publick and private morals. In this view it must be acknowledged important, not only to check that dissipation, which enervates and depraves, but also to moderate and qualify a propensity to what are deemed less exceptionable modes of pleasure...to show and equipage, convivial entertainments, festive assemblies, and theatrical exhibitions. One effectual method of accomplishing this purpose is to promote a relish for the pleasures of knowledge, and a taste for liberal pursuits and studies. The satisfactions, flowing from these sources, tend to strengthen, not debilitate, the mind ; to subdue, not inflame the passions. They are friendly to cheerfulness and the social virtues, and serve to disengage the feelings from ignoble gratifications. In these respects therefore, as tending to substitute mental occupation for sensual indulgence, and to create a fund of rational and salutary enjoyments in a place and state of society, where the love of pleasure and the means of it are continually augmenting, and where expense is not grudged to amusements of a different nature, it is presumed this institution will be thought to deserve the countenance of the wise and patriotick.

It will not be pretended, that the use and necessity of this institution, for the purposes described, are superseded by any establishments already existing in the town : however valuable they may be in themselves, or adapted to their particular objects. All the departments of the Athenæum, excepting the Library, are new, and not included in the plan of any other publick es-

tablishment ; and the Library is constituted upon principles and with regulations, by means of which it does not interfere with the interest of any other in operation, and at the same time is fitted to answer the exigencies of science and literature. Besides, when the building for the Athenæum shall be erected, other libraries, if their proprietors choose, may be united with this, or placed on its shelves and thus be rendered more secure, more accessible and useful, than their present situations admit.

It was observed, that this institution will be *ornamental* to the metropolis. In the form of the building, the distribution of the rooms, and the selection and arrangement of the various objects they will contain, neatness and elegance will be consulted along with convenience.

This establishment, it was said, will confer honour on its patrons. For it must be acknowledged honourable to apply wealth to some of its noblest uses ; to join to a spirit of commercial enterprize a just estimate of the value of letters and arts ; and to lay a permanent foundation for their cultivation and advancement thro' successive periods.

The example and success of the more wealthy inhabitants of other cities at home and abroad, in originating and conducting similar undertakings, are worthy of attention as calculated both to guide and to stimulate our liberality.

The Athenæum of Liverpool has been visited with delight and admiration by numbers of our countrymen ; and it is but one of several institutions of a like nature in that city. It includes a publick news-room of a superiour kind, occupying the ground floor of 2000 square feet ; and a library, of a narrower base, but greater elevation, lying over the first, and lighted from above. It was begun in January, 1798, for three hundred and fifty subscribers, who were to pay ten guineas each, as a capital, and two guineas annually. The whole was completed for 4000*l.* sterling. After six months, it being found sufficient for the accommodation of a larger num-

ber, seventy-five new subscribers were admitted at 20 guineas each. At the end of a year, seventy-five more, at thirty guineas each, were admitted; and the shares immediately rose to thirty-five and forty guineas. Thus a large sum was added to the capital of the institution; and the income, destined to the increase and support of the Library, was at that time estimated at four hundred guineas annually.

The city of London is known to have abounded for ages with foundations for the sciences, literature, and arts. Two have within a few years been added to those before existing, and supported with a liberality, which we cannot indeed be expected to rival; but which we may properly imitate, according to our exigencies and means. One of these is the Royal Institution, commenced under the auspices of our countryman, Count Rumford, designed for "diffusing the knowledge and facilitating the introduction of useful mechanical inventions and improvements; and for teaching, by courses of philosophical lectures and experiments, the application of science to the common purposes of life." Another is the London Institution, having three objects—"1. The acquisition of a valuable and extensive library...2. The diffusion of useful knowledge by means of lectures and experiments...3. The establishment of a reading-room, where the foreign and domestick journals and other periodical works, and the best pamphlets and new publications, are provided for the use of the proprietors and subscribers." The persons, having the benefit of these institutions are classed much in the manner proposed in the Boston Athenæum, consisting of hereditary proprietors, life subscribers, annual subscribers, and occasional visitors. Within a few hours after the proposals for the London institution were issued, all the shares were taken to the amount of 100,000*l.* stl.

Establishments, similar to these, but upon a smaller scale, are found in other cities of Great-Britain, probably inferior in opulence and population to this metropolis; and

they are provided in the populous places of other countries in Europe.

If we look to the principal towns and cities in our own country; though in general liberality, and in some instances, in disbursements for objects of science and the interests of education, we may court a comparison, yet, in *this mode* of patronizing literature, we find them before us. The Charleston Library Society, incorporated in 1754, has made very respectable progress in collecting books. The rooms are open during the principal part of every day, and afford a place of resort for reading and conversation. The merchants and scholars of Baltimore have recently provided themselves with an ample institution of the same kind. The library of the Philadelphia Library Company is well known. It was founded in 1731. Before the year 1769 other social libraries, which had been erected, were annexed to this. In late years it has been much augmented by donations and purchases; and is advancing to great splendour and utility. In the same city an institution, for the fine arts alone, has been commenced with an endowment nearly as large, as would be necessary to put the more extensive design here proposed into operation.

In the city of New-York much has recently been done for the promotion of these objects.

The cultivated character and the liberal spirit of the Bostonians have been subjects of encomium. It is probable, that the countenance, afforded to this proposal, will furnish a new instance to justify their claim to this praise.

This institution, it was said, is proposed at a suitable time. It bears a correspondence to the advancement of society and the state of the metropolis. Boston now contains a sufficient number of those, who need, or who can enjoy and improve, the advantages and pleasures of the Athenæum. There is a prevailing opinion, that objects of this kind should now engage attention. As a long course of time will be necessary for the maturity and

perfection of the design, it is certainly not too soon to begin. Whatever be the embarrassments and hazards, attending the prosecution of our commerce, it is notwithstanding highly productive, and the class of persons, enjoying easy circumstances and possessing surplus wealth, is comparatively numerous. As we are not called upon for large contributions to national purposes, we shall do well to take advantage of the exemption, by taxing ourselves for those institutions, which will be attended with lasting and extensive benefit, amidst all changes of our public fortunes and political affairs.

Finally it was said, that the proposal of this institution involves no extravagant demand upon the pecuniary resources of those, to whom it looks for support; and may be considered entirely practicable. Although it is projected upon a broad foundation, which will admit the expenditure of an indefinite sum, yet it may be commenced and prosecuted with limited means. The only requisite to its operation is a suitable building. This being provided, the income from annual subscribers, with donations, will probably be sufficient to secure its support and increase, if it will not give it splendour. But more than this may reasonably be wished and hoped. Not to mention what may be expected from life subscribers, it is only necessary, that one hundred and fifty persons shall be willing to vest in the Athenæum a sum for a capital, the interest of which is little more than the price of four half-weekly, and less than that of two daily papers, in order to raise a fund, which will put the institution in a very prosperous course; and which, besides procuring the building, will leave a considerable sum to be funded for annual use. By paying these three hundred dollars once, they will, without being subject to any subsequent expense secure to themselves, their assigns, and heirs, a right in an establishment, which is begun under favourable pros-

pects, and which must of course be acquiring additional value and importance every day. Under these circumstances, it may be said, without hesitation, that whilst the subscribers for shares in the Athenæum will have the satisfaction of being the patrons of an excellent design, they will, at the same time, be exposed to no sacrifice of property. For the shares being limited in number, subject to no assessment, and liable to be transferred and inherited, will always retain their value, and probably appreciate. The result of experience in similar institutions in Europe, commenced under no greater advantages than belong to the Athenæum, is entirely in favour of this calculation.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

1. The estate, effects, and property of the Boston Athenæum shall be vested in the holders of shares, under the title of the Proprietors of the Boston Athenæum: the number of shares shall not exceed one hundred and fifty; and no individual shall hold more than three shares.

2. The price of each share is three hundred dollars; to be paid thirty-three and one third per cent. in sixty days, and the remainder in two equal payments, the first in one year, the second in two years, from the date of these proposals; notes to be given to the treasurer of the Athenæum for the amount, unless the subscriber shall choose to pay the whole sum at once.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF THE PROPRIETORS.

A proprietor shall have, for every share he may own, two tickets of admission to the Athenæum; one of said tickets transferable according to the regulations to be adopted; and he shall have the right of introducing strangers according to said regulations.

Every proprietor shall have a right to transfer his share or shares by will, or other instrument in writing; and his share or shares shall be inheritable personal property; these rights to be exercised under such limitations and in such form and manner, as the proprietors shall prescribe.

The subscribers for proprietors' shares shall not be required to pay any

further contribution, after the price of their shares shall have once been paid ; and they shall be secured against all future claims and demands upon them on account of any debt, which the institution may contract.

LIFE SUBSCRIBERS.

It is also proposed to admit another class of subscribers called *Subscribers for Life*.

The price of a life share to be one hundred dollars ; to be paid one half in 60 days, and the other half in 1 year.

Every such subscriber shall have one ticket of admission to every part of the Athenæum, transferable under such terms and conditions, as the proprietors may prescribe.

THE GOVERNMENT

of the Athenæum shall be in the Proprietors, or in such persons, as they shall choose from among themselves.

When shares to a sufficient number shall have been taken, the president

and secretary for the time being shall call a meeting of the subscribers for proprietors' shares ; who, together with the present and then existing proprietors, shall enter upon the exercise of the powers vested in them ; organize the corporation ; designate and choose officers ; devise means for increasing the funds of the institution, and direct the mode of applying them ; take measures to erect or purchase the necessary buildings ; determine the evidence, which each proprietor shall have of his shares ; define and establish the rights of proprietors, life subscribers, annual subscribers, and occasional visitors ; make such further regulations as shall be judged expedient ; and generally execute all powers granted by the act of incorporation, and execute all powers granted by the act of incorporation, and expressed in the terms and conditions here published.

Boston, 8th May, 1807.

For the Anthology.

THE STUDENT, No. I.

"Juvat iterare labores."

A SERIES of essays is intended, under this title, on a course of liberal and learned study, including references to authors, and an estimate of their respective merits. Such a discussion is surely important, and may be made interesting. It embraces topics, which 'come home' to the interests and feelings of a large portion of those, who honour this publication with their attention and patronage. Its editors have been compelled to abandon the expectation of universal acceptance, and have almost relinquished the hope, which was once indulged, that this miscellany should comprize, as well profound disquisitions and correct criticisms for the gratification of the learned, as anecdotes for the amusement of loungers, and light articles for the entertainment of triflers. Yielding the palm of *badinage* to some other of the publications in our metropolis, or our sis-

ter cities, we allow them, and will strive to suppress all envy at their happy lot, to be the companions of the toilette, the tea-table, and the sofa ; we seek a place as well in the library of the student, as in the parlour of the reader of taste. We aspire at literary UTILITY : we hope for the reputation of promoting knowledge and the arts : we are even so arrogant, as to aim at scientific distinction. Of this, our high purpose and ambition, the plan now announced is intended to give evidence and illustration. Excuses for the imperfection of design, and defects of execution in these papers, would be, at this stage, worse than superfluous. However sincere these expressions of humility may be, they are too trite to be much regarded by the judicious, and too equivocal to be credited or heeded by the severe. A writer will exhibit, by his general style and

manner, his modest estimate of his own competence ; and this indirect appeal for candour will more avail with the liberal and enlightened, than the most balanced period or pointed turn of express apology. Taking encouragement from the *value* of our *design*, and animated by the confidence of deriving benefit from its pursuit, even should we unfortunately fail of imparting it ; we proceed to delineate the outlines of our plan, and the probable manner of executing it. Let such as patiently pursue the dull detail of this introductory number, take encouragement and consolation from the intelligence, that this department is expected to include the productions of several correspondents. Therefore no decision respecting its eventual worth can be formed from this first essay. This is but the rude sketch of a draughtsman ; but the superstructure will be reared by workmen of skill, ornamented with the polished columns of taste, and the finished decorations of genius. This is but the proclamation of a new soldier, sent forward as the herald of a little band of able and experienced veterans, who have enlisted to attack sciolism and dethrone frivolity, and to establish the empire of sound literature and genuine science. But neither of these allusions are satisfactory. We will try one more, and then proceed in sober narrative to give the reasons why we have undertaken, and to describe how we intend to prosecute this enterprize. At the feast which is preparing, the committee of arrangements, like experienced caterers, have reserved the choicest viands for an after period, and set forth at the beginning a course without much seasoning or any garnish.

Conscious in ourselves of too great

attachment to desultory studies, we think we may, without the imputation of unpardonable censoriousness, lament the general propensity and devotedness to superficial and miscellaneous reading. Books, of a nature to meet and encourage this predominant taste, have greatly multiplied of late years. Compendes now abound in every science, many of them professing to include in a *portable*, perhaps a *pocket* volume, all which is necessary to be known on that subject, and comprizing the pith of many cumbrous works. Theology and morals, in their quintessence, may be purchased for a mere trifle ; or a perusal, which will suffice as well, be procured at a still cheaper rate from the circulating library. Law is to be found as much compressed ; and a less sum, than would be required to procure good advice on a single question of litigation, will obtain a 'Vade Mecum' to supersede the necessity of consultation upon all. Physick has been still more abused, in this way, than the sister professions ; and not only specifics for every disease, but a complete description of them, as well as of the means of prevention and cure, may be had at every shop where other toys and nicknacks are vended. Politicks will not, by most of our enlightened countrymen, be allowed the name of a science. The experience of ages, and the history of governments, as well as all sound reasoning upon them, are rejected, and the crudest theories, the most visionary romances, are eagerly received, as shewing not only the quickest, but the best way of becoming civilians. This *fashion* not only pervades the whole sphere of active life, but has also gained admirers and proselytes in the retreats of scholastick discipline. The *tedious* course of study and

reflection, which is requisite to mature a proficient in classical and general science, is ridiculed by the gay, and dreaded by the indolent; and the advocate for ancient lore, and for the means by which eminence in learning was formerly acquired, will hazard a place among the sticklers for the buckram'd garments of former beaux and belles. Not merely those, whose literary curiosity extends no farther than the classes of novels and the drama, but many even among those, who would fain be thought to have some acquaintance with facts and principles, and who aim at a character for knowledge, captivated by the overwhelming influence of fashionable sentiment, seek in reviews, and abstracts, and 'elements,' and 'new methods,' hints and shreds of truth; instead of recurring to originals, and gradually accumulating a stock of profound information. They become familiar with title pages, indexes, and brief criticisms, but shrink from the toil of thorough or extensive inquiry.

Many circumstances, in the state of our country, tend to countenance and promote this flattering presumption. At the foundation perhaps of this, and many, other delusive opinions, are the chimerical notions generally entertained on civil polity. The idea is very extensively and very diligently promulgated, that little knowledge and less experience is requisite to form legislators and statesmen. The ambition to attain the distinctions of this sort, such as they are, which exist in our government, is predominant in next degree to the general eagerness after wealth. Now as any person, of tolerable capacity and memory, may acquire by rote, from a few days or even hours at-

tention, the whole creed and code of republican truth and duty; and as those who talk vaguely on rights, rather than those who think deeply, or reason justly, on interests and obligations, are most likely to obtain the popular suffrage, it naturally follows, that very crude and shallow politicians take place of mature and correct civilians. Youth cannot but see and know these things; and it cannot occasion so much surprize as regret, that it fosters their inclination for superficial and showy attainments, and discourages deep and patient investigation.

The facility of procuring wealth, the rapidity with which it has of late years grown up among us, and that without very able cultivation, operates as a farther obstacle to scientifick research. The temptation is next to irresistible to quit the long and dull drudgery, which is necessary to attain wisdom; as affluence may be reached in a much shorter and pleasanter way; especially as this seems to give far more distinction, and almost to supersede the use, and outshine the splendour either of talents or learning.

The essay to confute these notions, and correct this too prevalent estimate, may be thought exceedingly romantick, or altogether futile. But we are either so blind or so obstinate, that it is contemplated as laudable, and even some hopes are cherished, that it may be not wholly without effect. For ourselves, we avow utter incredulity respecting the pretensions of modern innovators in science, literature, or jurisprudence. These new lights may appear more dazzling, than the ancient luminaries; but their lustre will, we believe, quickly be exhausted, and they will go out in smoke.

The method, which will be fol-

lowed in the series, which now commences, cannot be as yet exactly and definitively marked. The judgment and taste of others must be consulted, respecting the detail; but, in general, it may be expected, that we shall follow that division of knowledge, which the illustrious Bacon marked out, and which some of the most solid and elegant scholars have adopted and advocated, in reference to Memory, Reason, and Imagination. The objects and studies, which these powers of our minds respectively pursue, and which reciprocally are calculated to delight and improve these faculties, will be defined; their mutual dependence will be traced; their

harmonious influence described; and the names, which time has enrolled on the scroll of fame, receive the eulogy they merit. The true and the useful is our aim; to revive and encourage a diligence and a zeal for that which alone deserves the name of science; to persuade and animate ourselves and our friends to fling away the gewgaws, with which to be amused is at least to waste, perhaps to pervert our mental energies; and, in a word, to control the revolutionary phrenzy, which has pervaded the republick of letters, to restore and confirm the rightful dominion of classick learning, sound philosophy, and correct taste.

For the Anthology.

A SKETCH OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, LITERATURE, THEOLOGY, &c. IN FRANCE.

Paris, March 26, 1807.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

AFTER residing fifteen months in this city I think I may give you at least some sketches drawn upon the spot, and of the faithfulness of which the recollections of many our countrymen will, I know, be a severe test. It is possible, that I may have received many false impressions, and formed many unjust conclusions, with regard to Paris; but, if the general tenour of this letter should be thought erroneous, let it be attributed to my limited acquaintance with the French language and French society.

When I find upon inquiry, that there are now more than sixty Americans in Paris, and that new visitors are daily arriving at the ports, who rush instantly to this centre, and are here lost for a half year or more in its indescribable

attractions, I am tempted seriously to weigh the advantages, which it presents, and to search into the strange charm, which it exercises.

I can hardly imagine a situation, which holds out fewer invitations to a mere man of business. However, as every merchant among you probably knows more about this, than I do, I shall say no more, except that I believe you will acknowledge, that this is the place to spend and not to get money.

In my dear native country, next to getting money, the most important business is to get news; and our politicians no doubt conclude, that Paris is the place, where the statesman, with spectacles on nose, may take a fine *coup d'œil* of the state of the world. But the fact is, I imagine, directly the reverse. As this spot is the fulcrum, upon which the destinies of Europe appear at present to be balancing, it

would seem, that less motion is perceptible here, than elsewhere. My countrymen, who are accustomed to have the news every morning with their bread and butter, can hardly conceive of the difficulty of obtaining correct intelligence in Paris, where every press is under the most rigid control of a government, which knows how to turn publick opinion. Unless you have access to the cabinet of the Thuilleries, you may speculate ; but be careful how you predict, lest to-morrow should put you to the blush. The grounds of political opinions here, even in what are called well informed circles, are treacherous in the extreme. In the French papers you rarely get at facts, till it is too late to reason from them. Thousands of Frenchmen do not even to this day know a syllable of the battle of Trafalgar. The Parisians are made the sport of all the blasts of rumour, which issue from the bags of the political Æolus. *Una Euræque Notusque, &c.*

I have often tried to imagine, what a young man would do in Paris, who was disposed to study theology. It is not even numbered among the branches of knowledge. In some of their literary journals no place is assigned to works of this class, even if any should be published. Religion in France is at present one of the dead branches of the tree of government, which they do not choose to cut away, because it serves some convenient purposes. The concerns of the church are managed by the *ministre des cultes*, as were the games and shows of ancient Rome by an officer of publick amusements. A man, disposed to study theology here, as a science, would, I think, be much at a loss for companions and instructors. It is true, there are,

in every archbishoprick, seminaries for the education of priests ; but it is found very difficult to fill the vacant cures. The protestants have a good Lutheran academy at Strasburgh, and one for the reformed at Geneva. But theological inquiry enters not into the thoughts of the learned. Biblical criticism is unheard of in publick, because it is unknown among the clergy. Of the ancient learned establishments of the Gallican church nothing remains, and of the religion of Rome little else is found, but the pomp of a ceremonial, which the government occasionally calls to its own aid ; and the influence of minor priests, which is still found of use among the weakest of the common people.

It is to be regretted, that sacred learning is so much neglected here ; for the national library contains inestimable treasures in manuscripts and printed works of theology. But they are now interesting only to the literati of other countries, who sometimes take a journey to consult them, and return home with their spoils. The theological treasures are suffered by the curators to sleep undisturbed, like the rubbish and antiquated furniture, which are usually left to moulder in the garret of an old house. Cuvier, one of the first minds in France, (but a Swiss by birth, and a German by education) lately undertook to pronounce a eulogy upon Dr. Priestley. He estimated well his scientific merits ; and after sufficient encomiums upon his philosophical, undertook to say something of his theological character, first making a thousand excuses to the Institute for bringing such a subject before such a learned body. Indeed, he confessed, that as to Priestley's works in divinity, he had attempted to

read them, but could make nothing of them. Delambre, the other secretary to the first class of the Institute, finished a eulogy, which I heard, upon Brisson, by saying, much to his honour, that he died, like a philosopher, '*without hope and without fear.*' Ex uno disce omnes.

In the National Library, not long since, I was employing myself in examining the famous Clermont manuscript of the Epistles of St. Paul. I pointed out to the Professor, who was also the keeper of the manuscripts, who attended us, the well-known various reading, which it has preserved, in 1 Tim. iii. 16., and which is rendered very remarkable by a curious attempt at alteration. The thing appeared to be quite new to him, though it has been known to every critick in Europe for a century.

It cannot be supposed, that, in a country where the character of a theologian is thought hardly worthy of being appreciated, rational piety should be held in much estimation. From what I have been able to ascertain, the relicks of devotional and zealous christianity are chiefly to be seen among the few remaining Jansenists of the church of Rome. But even among these, what is really valuable is so mingled with extravagant superstitions, that a man of a truly serious cast of mind will not fail to be disgusted. They still pretend to exhibit in various places in Paris, as before the revolution, miracles, which would shock the credibility of the greatest fanatics among us; and the *œuvre*, as it is called, is as common, though not perhaps as extravagant, among some of the lower classes of the catholicks, as it is, under the *same* name, in the camp-meetings in the United States.

As to the state of the protestants, I have obtained much information; but I have no room, except to give my testimony to the excellent characters of the protestant ministers of the Reformed Church in Paris.

But though theology has lost in France so much of perhaps undeserved favour, yet other parts of literature are cultivated as before. Perhaps the national elegance of French literature is not lost. There are institutions enough in Paris, where are given lectures upon the French language and belles-lettres; and those of other nations are not neglected, except the German, of which the French are utterly ignorant. The *Athenæum*, (formerly *Lycæum*), at which was delivered the *Cours de la Litterature* of La Harpe, still exists. Its professorships are filled, its lectures, its reading-room, and all its advantages, are to be enjoyed at the trifling sum of four or five pounds a year. If literature were to be acquired only by hearing popular discourses, every man and woman in Paris might be made a *litterateur* at a very little expense. But a thorough knowledge of the belles-lettres must be founded upon an intimate acquaintance with the ancient classicks; and that, I fear, is not to be acquired from the present establishments for education. As the flower of the youth is continually swallowed up by the Charybdis of a large army, hardly any young man is educated to be a *litterateur* by profession.

The exact sciences, especially those which have any useful relation to the military life, are almost the only branches of knowledge, which are taught systematically and profoundly. Look over the list of books, which have appeared in France for the last ten years;

and you will find nothing but mathematicks, natural history, and philosophy, and works of splendid execution in the fine arts. Criticism and ancient literature, such as it once existed in Holland; such as it once was found here in Casaubon, and lately is Barthelemy, Villoison, and the academicians; and such as it is now found in the universities of Germany, has almost disappeared in France. The multitude of translations, *cours de Latinité*, and petty subsidia for petty scholars, which appear every day, sufficiently proclaim the absence of the higher orders of classical acquirements. I cannot give you, in a letter, many instances in proof of these opinions, though I have collected several. I have known a respectable master of ancient languages, in one of the first schools of France, ignorant of the existence of Stephens's Thesaurus, and a famous translator of Plato, who thought Justin Martyr the earliest of the fathers. There is a Hebrew grammar, without points, lately published here by a professor in the college of France. It consists of twelve sheets, which give a kind of conspectus of the language. It is a work, which any man might get up after three months application to the language. The only wonder is, that it has appeared at all. Indeed the professor was obliged to persuade a few of his friends to attend his first lectures, in order to get an audience.

Metaphysics in France are rendered almost unintelligible to the pupils of Locke, Reid, and Stewart, by a new kind of nomenclature, derived from the philosophers, which serves only to conceal the emptiness of some speculations, and to obscure the merit of others. It would be in vain to search in Paris for a course of moral and

intellectual philosophy. The Parisians prefer feeling the outside of a skull with Dr. Gall, to analyzing the wonderful faculties, which exist within that little circumference.*

There is one subsidiary branch of knowledge, which is carried I believe to greater perfection in Paris, than in any part of Europe, except Germany, and this is bibliography. I was by no means aware of this fact, till I had been long in Paris. The school of Debure has produced a great many scholars, who know the value of all the rarest and most curious morceaux of ancient and modern literature. The bibliographical works, which have appeared during and since the revolution, have been well studied by the six hundred booksellers of Paris. I have been astonished to find, how well the women, who sell books in the most obscure *boutiques*, understand the value of the different articles. The book auctions are filled with female *bibliographists*.

I am however much afraid, that the progress of bibliography is a strong indication of the decay of learning. When titles, editions, and prices are studied, the contents of the volume are apt to remain, to be studied at a more convenient opportunity. Perhaps however bibliography is nothing more, than a necessary consequence of the prodigious multiplication of books, which the art of printing has introduced.

But if I go on any longer in this strain of cavil, you will give me no farther credit. Is there no one

* Lest I should seem to undervalue too much the French literature, in distinction from science, I will mention, that two tragedies have lately appeared, worthy of a better age...the *Mort De Henri 4.* by Legouvé, and *Amasis, or Joseph in Egypt.*

then of the innumerable divisions of the field of knowledge, for the cultivation of which Paris presents peculiar advantages? Yes, my friend, many, many, many. The exact sciences may be pursued here to any extent. Every ramification of natural philosophy, the progress of which depends on accurate and extensive observation, possesses here, and perhaps here only, every imaginable advantage. Whose fault must it be, if a young man learns nothing in a city, where he may hear the lectures of such men as Vauguelin, Cuvier, Häuy; listen to Berthollet, Fourcroy, Lavoisier, Laplace, Lagrange, and Carnot pursue their sublime speculations; and where every cabinet, garden, library, and museum, are thrown open to the student? Whose fault must it be, if nothing is learnt in a city, where every hour of the day may be given to some scientific inquiry; where lectures may be attended, experiments observed, libraries consulted, and cabinets examined? The *Jardin des Plantes*, or rather the museum of natural history, is unquestionably the most wonderful establishment of the kind in Europe. It is impossible to walk through its grounds, or examine its cabinets, without recalling with reverence the names of Buffon and Daubenton. The establishment consists of a botanical garden, a collection of natural history, a theatre for the various courses, a library, and a menagerie of every species of living animals. Into this favoured spot nature seems to have emptied all her varieties, her beauties, her wonders. You have before you the vegetable kingdom from the magnificent cedar, which once stretched its dark branches over the summits of Libanus, down to the tender sensi-

tive, which shrinks from the touch, and the hardy lichen, which vegetates unperceived amid the frosts of Lapland. If you enter the cabinet of preserved animals, you must raise your eyes to see the lofty head of the camelopard, and take your glass to examine the plumage of the minutest humming-bird, ten thousand of which would hardly make up a dish for Vitellius. The mineral kingdom is most elegantly disposed, and intelligibly arranged after the system of Häuy, from the diamond, which glitters in the crowns of princes, to the dross, which falls from the clouds in the shape of stones. Go into the menagerie, and you may feed the docile elephant, or incense the terrible tyger; see the chamois spring into his aerial house, or contemplate the patient dromedary working the hydraulick machine, which distributes water to this world in miniature.

Besides the advantages of the *Jardin des Plantes*, the student may attend the weekly sittings of the mathematical and physical class of the institute. At the Athenæum and at the college of France are given lectures by some of the most eminent professors, and the men of science, though not a little vain and perhaps hardly as generous as the interests of knowledge deserve, are yet sufficiently accessible. The jealousies however, which exist among them, are sometimes extremely unphilosophical. Already it is said that literary honours are not distributed with sufficient impartiality; the favour of the institute is obtained by canvassing and intrigue, and a nice observer will see that merit begins to struggle against power.

But for the man, who, to a taste for the fine arts, joins a certain degree of sensuality in his pleas-

ures, Paris is undoubtedly the Elysium, the metropolis of the gods. It would be superfluous to describe what every foreigner soon learns of the dissoluteness of European cities. But perhaps in no part of the world are all the various contrivances of sensuality so concentrated as in Paris; and certainly in no city of Europe are there so many persons assembled, whose only pursuit is pleasure, and whose only business is to be idle.

The greatest cynick however must acknowledge, that all the innocent luxuries of the *pleasures of the imagination* may be enjoyed here in as great purity as variety. I will say nothing of the delights of harmony, the splendour of *spectacles*, the graces of the dance, the magnificence of publick shows, the wonders of architecture, the elegance of furniture, and the taste of every species of decoration. I will mention only the nobler pleasures of the imitative arts. Who can attend a representation at the Theatre Français, and listen to the verses of Corneille, Racine, or Crebillon recited by the inimitable Talma, and not lose at once all his prejudices against the French drama, and, subdued by the enchantment, fancy for the moment that he sees the laurels of our own Shakespeare ready to wither. Forgive me, my friend; the word has escaped me. I will recall it. It is indeed astonishing, that in the midst of Paris there should exist such high decorum, such unexceptionable purity on this stage; and, in Parisians, such an admiration of the purest dramatick writings in the world. The propriety and richness of costume, the pomp of declamation, the grace of motion, and perhaps still more the proud beauty of Georges, the en-

thusiasm of Duchesnois, the incomparable movements of Talma, all conspire to make the Theatre Français the most pure and satisfactory of publick pleasures to a man of taste, of sentiment, and of principle.

Let us now go to the Louvre, and I will try to finish. The untutored stranger, whose expectations were alive and burning to visit the *Musée Napoleon*, will be lost upon his first entrance, not so much in admiration (for he is prepared to admire) as in the multitude of objects. He will walk through the halls confusedly, looking at every thing, admiring every thing, observing nothing. I venture to say, that he will have no distinct conceptions of the characters, the attitudes, or the places of the statues, which are there distributed, so that upon a second visit he will find that he remembers little of what he saw there before. After several returns he will begin to confine his attention to a few *chefs d'œuvre*. A glimpse of their distinguishing excellencies will shoot through his mind. He will enter into the conception of the artists. He will see in the Apollo something of divinity; in the Venus de Medicis he saw not the beauty which he expected, and he suffers his eyes to rest rather on the Venus of the Capitol; but after returning again and again to the former, he will be ashamed of his sensual partiality, and give himself up to admiration of that supernatural delicacy, which envelopes *this* goddess of the loves. Perhaps he will try in vain to contemplate the torso of Hercules, with the eyes of Michael Angelo, but he will be compensated by discovering the charming proportions of the *Mercure*, which were the admiration of Poussin. In short, if

he will return frequently to the study of this unrivalled collection, though he may be compelled to leave it too soon with inexpressible regret, yet if he be a man, capable of enlightened admiration, he will say, in casting his last look on the wonders of the chisel, 'Adieu ;

I depart without a murmur. I have attained a faint conception of the *beau ideal*. I am rewarded.'

I could fill many sheets in writing about Paris, but my letter is demanded, and I must finish.

Farewell.

For the Anthology.

REMARKER, No. 21.

Vixere fortes ante Agamemnona
Multi ; sed omnes illacrimabiles
Urgentur ignotique longa
Nocte, carent quia vate sacro.

HOR.

Before great Agamemnon reign'd,
Reign'd kings, as great as he, and brave,
Whose huge ambition's now contain'd
In the small compass of a grave ;
In endless night they sleep, unwept, unknown,
No bard had they, to make all time their own.

FRANCIS.

THE encouragement of learning and the patronage of genius are subjects, of which, though we hear much in our country, we have not yet a perfect understanding. From the records of our state legislature we may ascertain, how often they have voted, and how little they have done for our university ; how liberal they have been in acts of incorporation to inferior schools, and how sparing of grants to maintain them. They would have never dared to pay from the treasury a sum sufficient to erect a college or endow a professorship ; but they have most liberally empowered trustees at different times to pursue a system of gaming, that is forbidden by law to a single subject, and have assessed taxes in the shape of lotteries, whose effect has been little more than to compensate the labours of the managers, and corrupt the morals of the publick. Some of the most important studies are therefore faintly pursued, because

the oldest and most respectable literary institution in America wants competent funds to support instructors, and a dancing-master is better paid than a tutor.

If however the government has been niggardly, we may well boast, that the munificence of individuals has been applied to increase the utility of our establishments and to assist the talents of the studious. The liberality of our merchants is as well known at home, as their enterprize abroad.

Of the immense majority of mankind, if a few only are endowed by nature with such talents, as may be cultivated to eminence, they will be chiefly found in that rank of society, whose exertions must be wholly devoted to the procuring of the means of subsistence. How many of our distinguished citizens without patronage would have been forever confined to the humble pursuits of their fathers ! Of their youthful contemporaries how many ardent

minds have languished in obscurity, because

Chill penury repress'd their noble rage,
And froze the genial current of their
souls !

But the proud independence of genius must be treated with more delicacy, than the rich are accustomed to exhibit to their neighbours of inferiour fortunes. Gratitude ceases, when restraint begins. Pecuniary assistance should be conferred as a reward ; if offered, as charity, it is spurned with contempt. The claims of a great mind are not to be nicely calculated by a broker nor liquidated with the flattery of a patron. Chesterfield, hoping to satisfy Johnson for many years of labour, and to obtain the invaluable honour of a dedication with a few honied words, betrayed even more want of judgment, than meanness of soul. As well might he have pampered the lion with the tit-bits of a spaniel. Sampson was not to be confined by such cords, nor his head to be shorn at such solicitation. The peer has not gained the cognomen of Mecænas so cheaply, as he expected ; but he is 'a negative example to posterity,' and may always be remembered, as giving a generick name to one of the evils of the scholar's life,

Toil, envy, want, *the patron*, and the gaol.

The exploits of the Athenians were not, says Sallust, more brilliant, than other people have displayed ; but the genius of their writers has made the world resound with their fame. Their neighbours and their rivals were not inactive, but of their activity no honourable memorial has come down to our days, carent quia vate sacro. Alexander weeps with envy at the tomb of Achilles, because the hero's spear rages more in the

verse of Homer, than it ever did in the grasp of its master.

To learn how intimate is the connexion between the state of knowledge in any country and its prosperity, we need only compare the present condition of some parts of Europe with that of the feudal ages of darkness. The fetters of papal supremacy restrained the exertions of science, and the barbarity of monarchs and of subjects, varying less in reality, than in mode, gave no encouragement to art. Of the history of such times the mind rests on but few portions with delight. It resembles an extensive coast, enveloped in mist, where, though a few eminences are enlightened, the greater part appears dark, barren, and wearisome. Great minds are hardly distinguished in the ignoble herd of their countrymen. Like the companions of Æneas after the tempest, apparent rari nantes in gurgite vasto.

They rarely from the dark abyss emerge.

Of the nations of modern Europe, Italy, which was first in the race of civilization has long given up the hope of victory. Art and science were there resuscitated, but have long since been overpowered by lethargy. Statuary has indeed asserted her ancient honours ; but how long can she contend with domestick poverty and foreign domination ? The masterpieces of antiquity, and the rival vouchers of modern genius are transported beyond the Alps. The immortal city has no longer the club of Hercules to defend her ; her Apollo is torn away to grace the palace of the Thuilleries ; the thunder-bolt of Jupiter is wielded in a foreign country. The old ceremony of *evocation* has been performed by the French com-

manders ; the gods of Rome have deserted to the enemy.

In Switzerland moral causes cannot counteract the designs of nature, who said at the creation, here shall the inhabitants labour for a scanty subsistence and enjoy liberty, though debased by ignorance. Their mountains and valleys, deformed with rocks or buried in snow, seems destined to be the cradle of genius ; but the poverty of the country will not support his manhood. No other nymph, than she, whom Gessner courted, who seems to delight in mountain air, can live in so bleak an abode.

Spain, from her happy climate, and luxuriant soil, ought to be the elysium of Europe, and the genius of her natives might vie with that of Greece. But ecclesiastical bigotry there sways a sceptre more powerful, than the wand of Mercury, which drove only the shades of departed mortals, while the inquisition constrains the spirits of the living.

The causes of the decline of Holland may be estimated variously by different politicians ; but all will allow, that one, not the least efficient, was the neglect of learning by her citizens, and the universal pursuit of wealth. The

mighty mass of matter, in the composition of a Dutchman, was moved only by the competition for gain. *Agitante calescimus Deo.*

Between France and England, the contention for excellence in arts has been as animated, as for superiority in power. Learning has, in each country, been the subject of their highest pride. In the land of our forefathers, the Cum and the Isis are more revered than all the rivers of the East, 'whose foam is amber, and their gravel gold.' In all the liberal arts, except poetry, France has, perhaps, the advantage ; but the free spirit of Englishmen vindicates their superiority in abstract science.

If we are not the spurious offspring of our fathers, if we have not degenerated by transplantation, we ought, in no distant time, to rival England in learning, as in commerce. As we are in our infancy, perhaps attention is due rather to institutions, than to individuals ; and literary societies and projects deserve encouragement, before solitary genius can be patronised. To such plans every man, however inferior in station or wealth, may be invited to contribute, though he should modestly shrink from the honours of Mæcenas, or Lorenzo.

For the Anthology.

ORIGINAL LETTERS

FROM AN AMERICAN TRAVELLER IN EUROPE TO HIS FRIENDS IN THIS COUNTRY.

LETTER FIFTH.

Rome, Feb. 5, 1805.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

AS I promised in my last letter, I will proceed to give you some desultory sketches of Italian manners, usages, and character. If

some of them should be thought trivial in themselves, my apology must be, that the character of nations, as well as individuals, is made up of an infinite number of minute circumstances, each one perhaps,

considered separately, unimportant ; but the whole forming an assemblage, which constitutes that marked diversity, which we observe in different countries.

In the great outlines, men in all civilized nations essentially agree. We find the same passions, weaknesses, talents, virtues, and vices, though shaded with almost every imaginable diversity by usage, habit, and example, and affected by climate, religion, government, and state of morals.

The inhabitants of Rome are distinguishable from every other European nation, by the regularity and beauty of their features ; by the colour of their complexions, which is that of a lively brunette, sometimes accompanied with a sickly paleness ; and by a very striking gravity, and thoughtfulness of expression. I do not think I should be extravagant in saying, that the countenances of the common people in this city bespeak more intelligence, sensibility, and reflection, than those of any other city, which I have yet visited.

How far this melancholy gravity may be fairly attributed to the influence of religion, which obliges them to be three quarters of the year employed in ecclesiastical exercises, to the arbitrary nature of the government, to the misery of the greater part of the common people, or to the comparison of their present degraded state with their former unexampled grandeur, (an idea, which the *meanest Roman* never forgets,) I leave for philosophers to determine. The *fact* only I think it proper to notice.

The dress of the Italians in general resembles that of the French ; there is one part of it only, which is peculiar to themselves, and which I believe has been handed down to them from their ancestors

the ancient Romans. Every man, even the most poor, is enveloped in cold weather in a most ample cloak, one end of which is thrown over the shoulder, and reaches nearly to the feet. I cannot perceive any difference between this garment, and the toga of the ancient Romans, as it is represented upon the antique basso relievos and statues.

Much has been said by writers and connoisseurs, who have the 'gusto Italiano,' about the delicacy of the Italian language, its softness in pronunciation, its adaptitude to oratory and musick. I was prepared to find a nation, whose colloquial eloquence would be all harmony. But believe me, that seven-eighths of all these enthusiastick praises are the result of fashion or vanity. We are very fond of commending those accomplishments which we possess, but which others do not generally enjoy. I certainly entered Italy with the usual prejudices in favour of the language of that nation, increased by a few months attention to, and admiration of it. But I can assure you, that I was extremely disgusted with the Italian pronunciation of their language ; and that during six months residence, I heard but one person speak it in a manner not offensive to the ear.

It may be said, perhaps, that all languages sound at first uncouthly to those, who have not been accustomed to them ; but it was by a comparison of the Italian with other languages, with which I was a little familiar, that the above opinion was formed. The fact is, that the broad sound of the Italian vowels, and the constant recurrence of vowels in their words, produces a very loud, and inharmonious mode of speaking, extremely painful to a stranger accustomed to a

closer, and more confined pronunciation. Every Italian, conversing on the most ordinary and indifferent subjects, appears to be in a state of violent emotion.

The practice of employing eunuchs in their operas, and other musical performances, though opposed to every principle of decency and humanity, and expressly forbidden by the laws of the church, prevails as much as ever in every part of Italy. Even the leaders of the band of sacred musick at St. Peter's, and all the other churches of Rome, are in this degraded and mutilated situation. If we could forget the inhumanity, the impiety, and indelicacy, of this practice, we should indeed be charmed by the modulation and extent of the vocal powers of this unhappy race of mortals.

The artificers, and all the common people at Rome, have a strong propensity to overreach, and especially to impose upon strangers. Instead of asking, as the workmen of other countries frequently do, fifteen or twenty per cent. more than the value of an article, which they expose for sale, the Romans not unfrequently demand five or six times the value. On my arrival in this city, a friend advised me, whenever a louis d'or (or 29s. sterling) was demanded of me for any article, to offer a Paul, (or six pence sterling) and that I must not be surprised if the offer should be accepted. Although this advice was a little hyperbolic, it was not so much out of the way as you would imagine; and in objects of the fine arts, more especially, you may be pretty sure of purchasing, if you offer a dollar when four are demanded. I have endeavoured to find the cause of this very extraordinary laxity of principle and practice, and I think

it is to be attributed to the nature of the commodities in which these people usually traffick. The commerce and manufactures of Rome are chiefly confined to copies of paintings, frequently sold as originals, to busts, statues, coins, intaglios, cameos, mosaicks, and other objects of the fine arts, the value of which is, in the nature of the case, uncertain, and the price depends upon the whim or caprice of the purchaser, or the adroitness, and often falsehood, of the seller. For more than a century past, this city has been the fashionable resort of all the young men of fortune of every other nation in Europe. Frequently possessing very little understanding, and still less learning, they invariably carry with them the opinion, that it is very pretty, and indeed necessary, to be connoisseurs; and to prove it to their less happy countrymen upon their return, by their collections of antiques and objects of the fine arts, brought directly from the source of all taste, *Rome*. Such young men, it may be readily conceived, are the proper subjects for the adroit and ingenious Romans. So long ago as the time of the celebrated Abbe Barthelemy, author of the travels of Anacharsis, the frauds of these fabricators of *original* antiques, were so well disguised, as to impose frequently on that very learned antiquarian, and his literary friends.

It may easily be imagined, as every nation in Europe, especially the British, has been drawing upon this exhaustless fund of manufactured antiquities, that the art of imitation has not grown worse, although the real curiosities must have essentially diminished.

From my own observation, I can assure you, that there are more *original* paintings of each of the

celebrated Italian artists, pretended to be scattered in the different cabinets of Europe, than any *ten* of the most industrious of them could have executed.

Having a pretty good memory, I frequently remarked, that I had seen three or four copies of the same painting in different cabinets, all the proprietors of which claim the merit of having the original.

The same remark may be applied to every other branch of the fine arts and antiques, especially to coins, medals, and intaglios.

If one can trust either to appearances, or to the accounts which one receives in travelling, the Romans, in general, are not rich; and there are few who can, from the nature of their city and country, have the means of acquiring great wealth. The only persons who appear to possess affluence, except the high ecclesiastical officers, are the nobility. A *very small* portion of these lay claim to a noble descent of very high antiquity, and pretend to trace their origin to the Scipios and Cæsars. These, however, are neither among the wealthiest, nor the most distinguished of the nobles. Much the greater part, who now figure among the grandees at Rome, are the descendants of the nephews, or natural children of the Popes. The great families of the Borghese, Farnese, Barbecini, and Doria, owe a great part, and many of them the whole of their splendour, to the circumstance of an ancestor's having been raised to the pontifical chair. The late revolution has, at Rome as well as in France, placed a coronet or a mitre upon the heads of many, who thought themselves born to humbler fortunes. The most distinguished of this class is the marquis Torlonia, now the greatest banker in Italy. This man, at the com-

mencement of the revolution, which overthrew the Papal throne, was in the humble office of a valet: but taking an active part in favour of the French, he soon attracted their notice, became a favourite of their generals, the contractor for their armies, and thus acquired an immense fortune. With this property he has already invested himself with a marquisate, and has purchased the reversion of a dukedom. It may be well to remark here, that the titles in almost every part of Italy are not *personal*, but are attached to the estate; so that any man may become a duke or even a prince, who has the means and disposition to purchase an estate for the purpose.

The Italian nobility, in general, are not remarkable for the splendour of their equipages, or the expensiveness of their tables. Their pride and luxury seem to be confined to the magnificence of their palaces; the value, number, and antiquity of their paintings and statues. This taste undoubtedly owes its origin to the fine specimens of architecture and statuary, with which their country had been enriched by the ancient Romans, and a vast many of which have escaped the ravages of time. As the modern Romans found that their country was the resort of literary men of all nations, principally on account of these remains of ancient grandeur, it is extremely natural that, poor as they were, they should place a higher value upon these objects, than upon any other gratifications. If we except the palace built by Louis XIV. at Versailles, no monarch in Europe is so magnificently lodged, as twenty of these Roman nobles.

The interior of their palaces perfectly responds to the splendour

of the exterior. The cabinets of these nobles frequently contain paintings and statues, which would sell for millions; while the proprietors are the prey of Jews and sharpers, and almost literally want a coat.

I can give you one example of the prodigious value of the collections of some of these poor noblemen. The prince Justiniani had sold, it was said, four pictures out of his collection, to Lucien Bonaparte, for 160,000 dollars. I do not think that he had less than five or six hundred fine pictures left. The Palais Borghese contains statues and paintings, which would sell in England for more than a million sterling. All the gratification, which these noblemen derive from these splendid establishments, is, the praise and attention bestowed upon them by foreigners, who still crowd to Rome from every part of the civilized world. It is said, that the present race of Roman nobility is very much degraded in character; that they are ignorant, and wholly destitute of those qualities, which can alone render an aristocracy respectable.

The ecclesiastical police of Rome prohibits all public spectacles and amusements, except of a religious nature, or at the period of the Carnival. During this short interval of festivity, the theatre is opened, and the Romans, by the extravagance and folly of their amusements, endeavour to indemnify themselves for the restrictions, under which they are placed, during the rest of the year.

The Roman stage appears to me in a very humble state of advance-

ment. Tedious operas, in which every principle of common sense and nature is violated, or gross buffoonry, suited only to the lowest tastes, are the things which a Roman audience can alone relish. Operas in all languages, and in every country, are sufficiently stupid; but in France, you are in some degree recompensed for the outrage done to probability and good sense, by the splendour of the scenery, and the taste and beauty of the ballet. At Rome you are denied even these sources of relief. Long recitatives, without spirit or variety, and still longer songs and sonnettas exhaust the patience of the most meek, and you are amused with the same dirty scenery, which never changes, and with Harlequins, Scaramouches, and jumping jacks, instead of dancers. Much has been said, too, of the other amusements of the Carnival; but they are still more stupid and ridiculous, than their theatrical performances. They consist solely in odd and whimsical masquerade dresses, in which almost all the inhabitants attire themselves, and parade the streets, without the least exertion of wit, or any attempt to support the characters which they fantastically assume. On the whole, Rome, to a stranger, would be a most insipid and disagreeable city, if he was not compensated by the immense number and value of the objects of the fine arts, with which it is enriched, and by the magnificence of the remnants of antiquity, of which the folly and cupidity of the modern inhabitants cannot deprive him.

Yours, &c.

For the Anthology.

SILVA, No. 27.

Spargite humum foliis, inducite fontibus umbras. VIRG. Ecl. V.

DUPORT.

DUPORT is the best French dancer that ever flourished. Speak but the name of Duport in Paris, and you are at once beloved. Old Vestres ranked himself with the three greatest living characters of the world; but Duport is ranked with the deities of old. When the curtain of the grand opera-house of Paris rises, silence is most boisterously proclaimed, in order that the audience may hear, as well as see, the motions of this young Mercury. He plays Zephyr, in *Le Retour de Zephyr*. The musick, with a sweet and plaintive melody, woos Zephyr from the cliffs. He comes, but in the most 'questionable shape.' He bounds from the rocks, as if he were a god, just lighting on the earth; he rises, and floats along, with all the airy lightness of a white cloud, in a summer's sky. Indeed so flexible is he, that he seems, in some of his motions, to melt into very air; he becomes a zephyr itself, and you feel him on your cheek. The Paris ladies draw in their breath, as if they were inhaling him; and the monsieurs take him up their noses, mingled in a pinch of rappee. The curtain drops, and Duport is demanded, in order that they may experience, by some one of their common, household, every-day senses, whether he is something, or nothing.

DEDICATIONS.

Dedications seem now almost out of use. This may be owing to the universal stupidity of the poor literary wights of the present

day. The press has disembogued too much stuff, for a few years, to be acceptable in offering to any one, 'gentlemanly learned.' The marrow of modern dedications lies altogether in the tail of them. At the conclusion, the manner of the author is very much like that of a French dancing-master, taking leave of a minuet. *Ex.gr.* 'I now take my leave, for the present, of your lordship, and remain, with the most profound reverence, and heart-felt gratitude for innumerable favours, your lordship's most obedient and very humble servant.' We know not how Johnson would have built this portico to the massy fabrick of his dictionary; its columns would, at least, have displayed stateliness and magnificence, if not beauty and grace. I will venture, however, to affirm, that there is no dedication in the language, so masterly, and so courteous, so various, so splendid, and so crowded with fine writing, as that of Prior to the earl of Dorset. Prior addresses him, amongst other things, as being the son and successor of his great patron, the earl of Dorset. I subjoin a few of the passages:

I assure myself, the most agreeable compliment I can bring your lordship, is to pay a grateful respect to your father's memory. And my own obligations to him were such; that the world must pardon me for endeavouring at his character; however I may miscarry in the attempt.

A thousand ornaments met in the composition of this great man; and contributed to make him universally beloved and esteemed.

Such were the natural faculties and strength of his mind, that he had occasion to borrow very little from education; and he owed those advantages to his own good parts, which others acquire by study and imitation. His wit was abundant, noble, bold. Wit in most writers is like a fountain in a garden, supplied by several streams brought through artful pipes, and playing sometimes agreeably. But the earl of Dorset's was a source rising from the top of a mountain, which

Forced its own way, and, with inexhaustible supplies, delighted and enriched the country through which it passed. This extraordinary genius was accompanied with so true a judgment in all parts of fine learning, that whatever subject was before him, he discoursed as properly of it, as if the peculiar bent of his study had been applied that way; and he perfected his judgment by reading and digesting the best authors, though he quoted them very seldom,

‘Contemnebat potius literas, quam nesciebat :’ and rather seemed to draw his knowledge from his own stores, than to owe it to any foreign assistance.

The brightness of his parts, the solidity of his judgment, and the candour and generosity of his temper distinguished him in an age of great politeness, and at a court abounding with men of the finest sense and learning.

As the judgment which he made of other’s writings, could not be refuted; the manner in which he wrote will hardly ever be equalled. Every one of his pieces is an ingot of gold, intrinsically and solidly valuable; such as, wrought or beaten thinner, would shine through a whole book of any other author. His thought was always new; and the expression of it so particularly happy, that every body knew immediately, it could only be my Lord Dorset’s; and yet it was so easy too, that every body was ready to imagine himself capable of writing it. There is a lustre in his verses, like that of the sun in Claude Lorraine’s landscapes; it looks natural, and is inimitable. His love-verses have a mixture of delicacy and strength; they convey the wit of Petronius, in the softness of Tibullus. His satire indeed, is so severely pointed, that in it he appears, what his great friend, the Earl of Rochester, (that other prodigy of the age) says he was :

‘The best good man, with the worst-natur’d Muse.’

Yet so far was this great author from valuing himself upon his works, that he cared not what became of them, though every body else did. There are many things of his not extant in writing, which however are always repeated; like the verses and sayings of the ancient Druids, they retain an universal veneration; though they are preserved only by memory.

MOTION AND REST.

I crave pardon of many grave and potent critics, in daring to name a beauty from Southey, though never so beautiful; as much as I beseech it from the mild, gentle, and benign spirit of Dr. Johnson, in taking one from Byer. It is almost impossible to have two minuter descriptions, and two so correspondently different :

.....They were gallant barks,
As ever through the raging billows rode,
And many a tempest buffetting they bore;
Their sails all swelling to the eastern breeze,
Their tightened cordage clattering to the mast.
Steady they rode the main; the gale aloft
Sung in the shrouds, the sparkling waters hissed
Before, and frothed, and whitened far behind;
Day after day with one auspicious wind
Right to the setting sun we held our way.

SOUTH. MADOC.

.....With easy course,
The vessels glide, unless their course be stopped
By dead calms, that oft lie on these smooth seas,

While every zephyr sleeps; then the shrouds drop
The downy feather, on the cordage hung,
Moves not. The flat sea shines like yellow gold
Fused in fire. DYER’S FLEECE.

THE NOSE, EYE, AND MOUTH.

These are the three features, which so embellish and enoble the human countenance. The nose marks man from brutes, and is a general index of the characters of men. But the nose is not much, after all. Its use consists mostly in its being the sentry-box, where the sense of smell holds its watch over taste, to give the alarm of the approach of offence. The organ of smell is the medium of but little pleasant sensation to the brain; and there is but little sentiment to be extracted from odour, however fragrant. It is, poor thing, destined to suffer much annoyance, as it cannot close itself against the entrance of that which it abhors.

The eye is the inlet of all that is beautiful in nature. It is the loop-hole of our earthy castle, out of which the soul loves to look on the broad domains, which surround it. In physiognomy, the eye is unquestionably one of the strongest principles. It expresses all the strong and powerful evolutions of the soul; but it is no index to its minuter operations. As a feature, it is fitted with honour and love. How sublime is man with an eye of Mars, in the front of Jove; how lovely is woman, with a blue eye, melting under a falling eye-lash. How sorrowful is she, when the lustre of this blue eye is dimmed with tear-drops; and how holy are these tears, when seen through those, which pity has started in our own!

But how shall I speak of the mouth? How trace the eternally variable line of the lip? How shall I follow the thousand evanescent motions, that play about it? How

bewitching is it, at the starting of a smile ; how lovely, as it gathers to close upon it. How pure is it, just opening with sorrow ; how tremulous under the touches of pity ! In joy, how expressive ; in love, how melting. How does it exceed all that nature has done ! How supreme is it over art ! How much more brilliant is it, than coral inlaid with pearls.

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CRITICKS.

The doctrine of writing is clearly no more, than the doctrine of association. One, therefore, to be a correct judge of what another has written, must have the same train of ideas pass partially thro' his brain ; and his mind must, in some degree, be co-operative with the author's. There are some men, who may judge of all things, by the force of intellect, and the authority of nature ; whose ideas occur to them, like axioms, and whose reasonings are the ratios of truth. But learned men, with weak heads, are like misers, with great wealth, they possess more than they have capacity to enjoy, or ingenuity to exercise ; and they are forever acquiring that, which they never can transmit. Though this gentry of the Hollowskulls have wit so thin, that they will ' endure but one skimming,' yet will they bend their shaggy brows over their shallow skulls, with the hazard of fracture, for the sake of looking fierce, and putting out of countenance a blushing author.— Quoting Greek will never alter what is true, nor blemish what is beautiful ; nor even malignancy, squatted like a toad, disgorging venom, poison the purity of intellect. If the minds of common criticks fail them, let them not blame the force of the author's, but the imbecility of their own. When they praise, let them not praise

from the exultation of comprehension ; when they condemn, let them not be irritated by the spite and restlessness of impotency. Dull criticks resemble those bodies, which absorb light, by their grossness, stifle it, and return only vacant darkness.

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CITY SHOWER.

There is something consummately sullen in a rainy day, in the city. The streets sound hollow, as now and then a heavy coach drives along ; or as the drenched horse clatters rapidly over the pavements with his drizzling rider. The lady visitant trips homeward, (for it rains too hard to get a coach) her muslins clinging and fadging to her limbs, so that they creek with their tight setting ; and the citizens trudge home to their wives, to pass the afternoon, and have tea and whaffles. The poetical part of the confusion of gutters, mingling into quagmires, and the objects of their sweeping fury and destruction, is very aptly set forth by Swift :

Now in contiguous drops the flood comes down,
Threat'ning with deluge this devoted town.
To shops in crowds the daggled females fly,
Pretend to cheapen goods, but nothing buy.
The templar spruce, while every spout's abroad,
Stays till its fair, yet seems to call a coach.
The tuck'd up seamstress walks with hasty strides,
While streams run down her oiled umbrella's sides.
Here various kinds, by various fortunes led,
Commence acquaintance underneath a shed.
Now from all parts the swelling kennels flow,
And bear their trophies with them as they go ;
Filths of all hues, and odours seem to tell
What street they came from, by their sight & smell.
Drown'd puppies, stinking sprats, all drench'd in mud,
Dead cats, and turnip-tops, come tumbling down the flood.

How different is a shower in the country ! How pleasant is it, then, to sit at the window of my country house, and listen to the gentle kisses of rain-drops and leaves ; to hear the drooping bird chirp faintly from the orchard ; and the drip-

ping cattle, gathering close, low at the gate. How soft the air, filled with the freshness of the vallies, and the luxuriance of the plains. But how sweeter is its clearing up, at evening ; the rainbow glimmering ; the broad sun shedding a faint light over the deepened landscape ; the birds shaking their little wings, and opening their merry throats ; and man and beast peaceful and contented.

MATTER-OF-FACT MEN.

There is no set of animals so tedious, as matter-of-fact men. That is, those, who have bare facts, without the reason of them. An eclipse happened yesterday ; it is a fact. But they cannot tell what is an eclipse, nor how it happened. I have been reasoning high logick, and bye logick, and been at the point of the triumph of argument, though perhaps without the conquest of truth ; and one of these *eaves-droppers* in conversation, who hears all, but speaks not a word, will by and by surprise me with a confounded fact, which, do my best, I cannot get over. *Ex. gr.* I will advance in argument, ‘ man has an abhorrence of violent pain, and therefore would not bathe in molten lead.’ My respondent denies not my proposition. But *Factotum* blows me up at once, in declaring, that he has seen a man in Paris, who, for ten sous, would bathe himself in the very fluid ; and this is a fact.

WOMEN.

It is in vain for men to put on important airs and wise looks, in claiming absolute superiority over women. The one, who makes the last triumph, is pretty evidently the conqueror. There is a mysterious influence about them, which will get the better of us ; a nimble-

ness of thought, which will outstretch our own. Let us be, but a moment, under the spell of a melting face, and where is the rigour of our stoicism ? What avails us to dart the fiery glances of indignant eyes against a blue one, glistening in tears ? One sigh from the bosom of a beautiful woman will wreck our pride, and one tear-drop overwhelm it. On the other hand, these pretty favourites of nature must not too curiously peep into the dark and winding recesses of science. The delicacy of their minds may be made still sweeter by apportioning their time to the endearing order and peaceful security of domestick life, and to the acquirement of easy literature ; sometimes to the airiness of poetry, and sometimes to the gravity of plain reading. Montaigne’s words are most preceptive :

La poesie est un amusement propre a leur besoin ; c’est un art folastre, tout en plaisir, comme elles. Elles tirent aussi divers commoditez de l’histoire. En la philosophie, de la part qui sert a la vie, elles prendront les discours qui les dressent, a juger de nos humeurs et conditions, a se deffendre de nos trahisons ; a reigler la temerite de leurs propres desirs ; a mesnager leur liberte ; allonger les plaisirs de la vie, et a porter humainement l’inconstance d’un serviteur, la rudesse d’un mary.

DANTE ALIGHIERI.

There is much mystery about this dark and solemn Italian bard. It was in his banishment, that he became the most gloomy of recluses, abstracted from objects of this world, and brooding over the memory of his beloved, but dead Beatrice. It was then, amidst the gloomy haunts of exile, and in the deep silence of never-ending solitude, that his dark spirit held strange vision and communion with the horrible shadows of the other world. It was then, that it moved with dreadful pomp through the regions of hell, along ranges of forms, monstrous with every deformity, which heavenly in-

dignation could impose, and writhing with every torture, which wrath could inflict. Amid the hollow groans of anguish and despair, and the sinking sobs of sorrow, that is never to end, and of repentance, unaccepted, did he perform his infernal march. His *Inferno* is the mighty perspective of his tremendous pass.

In his *Purgatorio*, his mind has shed a pale light through the infinite extent of darkness, which had surrounded it. In his *Paradiso*, he has struck into vision realms, brighter and more charming, than even hope could desire. The air of his heaven is the purest expanse, through which his perfect spirits are forever moving, with all the felicity and delight of angelick life.

Dante was born at Florence, A. D. 1265, and sprang from one of its first families. He was early enamoured of Beatrice, the influence of whose charms was the inspiration of his muse. His love, like that of his successor Petrarch, was most strange, mysterious, and spiritual. She died at twenty-six, and the soul of Dante sunk into the most profound gloom. During the convulsions of grief, he commenced the mighty work of the *Divina Commedia*; encouraged by the prayers of his mistress, now in heaven, who had prevailed on the spirit of Virgil to be his guide through the regions he was to pass. The spirit of the great Latin poet was to Dante, what Æneas was to himself. Having been suspected of joining in a conspiracy, at Florence, he was banished, and for many years the melancholy bard wandered about Italy, hunger-bitten, and forsaken. He finally procured protection at Ravenna, where he at length closed his miserable life. Dante was said to have pos-

sessed powerful eloquence, and was sent on fourteen different embassies. His works consist of the *Divina Commedia*, a Latin translation on Eloquence, and many canzonets and sonnets. He has been thus peculiarly sketched by a great Italian writer: 'His demeanour was solemn, and his walk slow; his dress suitable to his rank and age; his visage long, his nose aqueline, his eyes full, his cheek bones large, and upper lip a little projecting over the under one; his complexion was olive, his hair and beard thick and curled; this gave him that singularity of aspect, which made his enemies observe, that he looked like one who had visited the infernal regions.'

Though surrounded by the gloom of the dark ages, the genius of Dante moved through the thickened hemisphere, like the sun in a storm, struggling through darkness, and at times breaking forth with excessive light. Though persecuted, and then forsaken, he was inspired by his muse to achievements, which made his name imperial in fame. His imagination was so filled with sublimity, pathos, and beauty, that it is difficult to detach from the whole, particular examples.

The third canto of the *Inferno* opens with the dreadful inscription on the gates of hell:

*Per me si va nella città "dolente":
Per me si va nell' eterno dolore:
Per me si va tra la perduta gente.
"Giustizia mosse 'l mio alto fattore:
Fecemi la divina potestate,
La somma sapienza, e 'l "primo motore.
Dinanzi a me non fur cose create,
Se "non eterne, ed io "eterno duro:
Lasciate ogni speranza, voi che 'ntrate.*
DELL' INFERNO, Cant. 3.

Through me the newly-damn'd for ever
fleet,
In ceaseless shoals, to Pain's eternal
seat;

Through me they march, and join the
tortur'd crew.
The mighty gulph offended Justice
made ;
Unbounded power the strong founda-
tion laid,
And Love, by Wisdom led, the lim-
its drew.

" Long ere the infant world arose to
light,
I found a being in the womb of night.
Eldest of all—but things that ever
last !—
And I for ever last !—Ye heirs of Hell,
Here bid at once your lingering hope
farewell,
And mourn the moment of repentance
past !" BOYD.

The repose of the following
stanza is peculiarly striking :

*Quante il villan, ch' al poggia si riposa,
Nel "tempo, che "colui, che 'l mondo
schiara,
La faccia sua a noi tien "meno ascosa,
Come "la mosca cede alla zanzara,
Vede lucciole giù per la "vallea,
Forse colà, dove vendemmia ed ara.
DELL' INFERNO, Cant. 26.*

As when the swain, reclin'd beneath
the shade,
Beholds the glow-worm train illum-
e the glade,
And spangling myriads gleam along
the vale :
While Evening slumbers o'er her
shadowy reign,
And, borne on Summer wing, across
the plain,
In twilight bands, the droning beetles
sail. BOYD.

Is there in the whole range of
poetry a description of winter, so
masterly as the following ?

*In quella parte del "giovinetto anno,
Che 'l "sole i crin sotto l' "Aquario tem-
pra,
E già le notti al "mezzo di sen' vanno :
Quando la brina in su la terra "assempra
L'immagine di sua "sorella bianca,
Ma "poco dura alla sua "penna "tempra,
Lo "villanello, "a cui la roba manca,
Si leva, e guarda, e vede la campagna
Biancheggiar tutta, "ond' ei si batte
l' "anca :
Ritorna a casa, e qua e là si lagna,
Come 'l "tapin, che non sa che si faccia :*

*Poi "riede, e la speranza "ringavagna
"Veggendo 'l mondo aver cangiata faccia.
DELL' INFERNO, Cant. 24.*

When now the infant Year begins her
race,
Then rising SOL the watry sign surveys,
And deep inurn'd, his oozy tresses
laves :
Keen BOREAL blasts congeal the fall-
ing dew,
The hoary prospect glows beneath the
view,
Till Phœbus gild afar the orient
waves.
Half-clad the shudd'ring peasant meets
the dawn,
And views with looks of woe the win-
try lawn ;
Then turns desponding to his hut
forlorn :
Once more the wintry plain his feet
essay,
The frosty mantle flits beneath the ray,
And meets the Sun in mounting vol-
umes borne. BOYD.

No two poets ever wrote with
such coincidence of thought and
expression, as the Italian poet, and
the great author of Paradise Lost.
Indeed, the same train of images
seems to have passed through the
inspired vision of these two wild
magicians. The darkness of their
souls was 'utter ;' the light of them
as pure and mild, as the first ray,
which reached the bowers of Eden.

VIRGIL'S THUNDER.

Virgil's art of making thunder
seems very like an empirick's
recipe : his Cyclops are like so
many drug-men, most gravely ma-
king it up. There is so much
quackery about the original pre-
scription, that one is surprized
Dryden did not reduce the ingre-
dients, at least to *scruples*.

*Tres imbris torti radios, tres nubis aquosæ
Addiderant, rutuli tres ignis et alitis Austri,
Fulgores nunc terrificos, sonitumque metumque
Miscebant operi flammisque sequacibus iras.
ÆNEID. VIII.*

Three rays of writhen rain, of fire three more,
Of winged southern winds and cloudy store
As many parts ; the dreadful mixture frame,
And fears are added, and avenging flame.
DRYDEN.

—
For the Anthology.

ORIGINAL LETTER.

[The following letter, which was written by the late President of the United States, at an early period of his life, will be read with peculiar pleasure by those, who love to trace the progress of eminent men. Some of the sentiments, which it contains, were prophetick, and are gradually fulfilling. We are happy to preserve the fragments of those heroes, who achieved the independence of our country, and to whom we are indebted for the forms of our civil institutions.]

Worcester, Oct. 12, 1755.

DEAR SIR,

ALL that part of creation, which lies within our observation, is liable to change. Even mighty states and kingdoms are not exempted. If we look into history, we shall find some nations rising from contemptible beginnings, and spreading their influence, till the whole globe is subjected to their sway. When they have reached the summit of grandeur, some minute and unsuspected cause commonly effects their ruin, and the empire of the world is transferred to some other place. Immortal Rome was, at first, but an insignificant village, inhabited only by a few abandoned ruffians; but, by degrees, it rose to a stupendous height, and excelled, in arts and arms, all the nations that preceded it. But the demolition of Carthage, (what one should think would have established it in supreme dominion) by removing all danger, suffered it to sink into debauchery, and made it, at length, an easy prey to barbarians. England, immediately upon this, began to increase (the particular and minute causes of which, I am not historian enough to trace) in power and magnificence, and is now the greatest nation upon the globe.

Soon after the reformation, a few people came over into this new world, for conscience sake. Perhaps this apparently trivial incident may transfer the great seat of empire into America. It looks likely to me; for, if we can remove the turbulent Gallicks, our people, according to the exactest computations, will, in another century, become more numerous than England itself. Should this be the case, since we have, I may say, all the naval stores of the nation in our hands, it will be easy to obtain the mastery of the seas; and then the united force of all Europe, will not be able to subdue us. The only way to keep us from setting up for ourselves, is to disunite us. Divide et impera—Keep us in distinct colonies, and then some great men in each colony, desiring the monarchy of the whole, they will destroy each other's influence, and keep the country in equilibrio.

Be not surprised that I am turned politician. This whole town is immersed in politicks. The interests of nations, and all the dira of war, make the subject of every conversation. I sit and hear, and after having been led through a maze of sage observations, I sometimes retire, and, by laying things together, form some reflections

pleasing to myself. The produce of one of these reveries you have read above. Different employments, and different objects, may have drawn your thoughts other ways. I shall think myself happy, if, in your turn, you communicate your lucubrations to me. I wrote you sometime since, and have waited with impatience for an answer, but have been disappointed. I hope that the lady, at Barnstable, has not made you forget your friends. Friendship, I take it, is one of the distinguishing glories of man; and the creature, that is insensible of its charms, though he may wear the shape of man, is unworthy of

the character. In this perhaps we bear a nearer resemblance to unembodied intelligences, than in any thing else. From this I expect to receive the chief happiness of my future life; and am sorry that fortune has thrown me at such a distance from those of my friends, who have the highest place in my affections. But thus it is, and I must submit—But I hope, ere long, to return, and live in that happy familiarity, that has, from earliest infancy, subsisted between yourself and affectionate friend,

JOHN ADAMS.

Addressed to Mr. NATHAN }
WEBB, at Braintree. }

SELECTED POETRY.

[We are confident, that our readers will be grateful to us for the re-publication of the following verses. They are extracted from a pamphlet, which has gone through several editions in England, and are supposed to have been written by the celebrated GEORGE CANNING.]

ELIJAH'S MANTLE.

BEING VERSES OCCASIONED BY THE DEATH OF THAT ILLUSTRIOUS STATESMAN, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM PITT.

1.

WHEN by th' Almighty's dread command,
Elijah, call'd from Israel's land,
Rose in the sacred flame,
His Mantle good *Elisha* caught,
And with the Prophet's spirit fraught,
Her second hope became.

2.

In *Pitt* our Israel saw combin'd
The Patriot's heart—the Prophet's mind,
Elijah's spirit here;
Now, sad reverse!—that spirit rest,
No confidence, no hope is left;
For no *Elisha's* near.

3.

Is there among the greedy band,
Who've seiz'd on Power with harpy hand,
And Patriot worth assume,
One on whom publick faith can rest—
One fit to wear *Elijah's* vest,
And cheer the Nation's gloom?

4.

Grenville,—to aid thy Treasury fame,
A portion of his Mantle claim,
Pitt's generous ardour feel;
'Bove sordid self resolve to soar,
Amidst Exchequer gold be poor,
Thy wealth—the publick weak.

5.

Fox,—if on thee some remnant fall,
The shred may to thy mind recall
Those hours of loud debate
When thy unhallow'd lips oft prais'd
"The glorious fabrick" traitors rais'd
On Bourbon's fallen state—

6.

Thy soul let *Pitt's* example fire,
With patriot zeal thy tongue inspire,
Spite of thy Gallic leaven;
And teach thee in thy latest day,
His form of prayer, (if thou canst pray)
"O save my Country, Heaven!"

7.

Windham,—if e'er thy sorrows flow
For private loss, or publick woe,
Thy rigid brow unbend:
Tears, over *Cæsar*, *Brutus* shed,
His hatred warr'd not with the dead—
And *Pitt* was once thy friend.

8.

Does Envy bid thee *not* to mourn?
Hold then his Mantle up to scorn,
His well-earn'd Fame assail;
Of funeral honours rob his corse,
And at his virtues, till thou'rt hoarse,
Like curst *Thersites* rail.

9.

But know that these ungenerous deeds,
As long as age to age succeeds,
Shall prove thy glory's bane;
That noxious as the vernal blast,
Shall on thy blighted memory cast
An everlasting stain.

10.

Illustrious *Roscius* of the State,
New breech'd and harness'd for debate,
Thou wonder of thy age!!!
Petty or *Betty* art thou hight
By *Granta* sent to strut thy night
On *Stephen's* bustling stage?

11.

Pitt's 'Chequer robe will *Petty* wear?
Take of his Mantle then a share,
'Twill aid thy Ways and Means;
And should *Fat Jack*, and his *Cabal*,
Cry "rob us the Exchequer, Hal!"
'Twill charm away those fiends.

12.

Sage *Palinurus* of the realm!
By *Vincent* call'd to take the helm,
And play a proxy's part;
Dost thou a star, or compass know,
Canst reef aloft—or steer below?
Hast conn'd the seaman's chart?

13.

No! from *Pitt's* Mantle tear a rag,
Enough to serve thee for a flag,
And hoist it on thy mast:
Beneath that sign (our prosperous star)
Shall future *Nelsons* rush to war,
And rival victories past.

14.

Sidmouth,—though low his head be laid
Who call'd thee from thy native shade,
And gave thee second birth;—
Gave thee the sweets of Power and
Place,
The tufted robe—the gilded mace,
And rear'd thy puny worth:

15.

Think how his Mantle wrapp'd thee
round:
Is one of equal virtues found
Among thy *new* Compeers?
Or can thy cloak of *Amiens* stuff,
Once laugh'd to scorn by *Blue* and *Buff*,
Screen thee from *Windham's* jeers?

16.

When Faction threaten'd Britain's
land,
Thy new-made friends—a desperate
band,
Like *Ahab*—stood reprov'd;
Pitt's powerful tongue their rage could
check;
His counsel sav'd, midst general wreck,
The *Israel* that he lov'd.

17.

Yes, honour'd Shade; whilst near thy
grave
The letter'd sage, and chieftain brave,
The votive marble claim;
O'er thy cold corse—the publick tear
Congeal'd, a chrystal shrine shall rear
Unsullied—as thy Fame!!!

THE BOSTON REVIEW,

FOR

MAY, 1807.

Librum tuum legi & quam diligentissime potui annotavi, quæ commutanda, quæ eximenda, arbitrarer. Nam ego dicere vero assuevi. Neque ulli patientius reprehenduntur, quam qui maxime laudari merentur. PLIN.

ART. 23.

Memoirs of Dr. Joseph Priestley, to the year 1795, written by himself; with a continuation to the time of his decease, by his son, Joseph Priestley: and observations on his writings, by Thomas Cooper, president judge of the 4th district of Pennsylvania: and the Rev. Wm. Christie. Northumberland, Penn. printed by J. Binns, 1806.

THIS work is comprised in two volumes 8vo. containing, besides the memoirs with notes, a preface by the son, Joseph Priestley; and several appendixes, giving an account of Dr. Priestley's writings, a summary of his religious opinions, concluded with a catalogue of his works. The accounts of his chemical, philosophical and metaphysical, political and miscellaneous writings, and summary of opinions, are the work of Thomas Cooper, Esq. formerly of Manchester, England. The appendix, which contains the analysis of Dr. P.'s theological writings, is from the pen of the Reverend Mr. Christie, formerly of Montrose in Scotland, and is signed Caledonicus Americanus.

Dr. Priestley's character, studies, and writings have gained no small share of the attention of his contemporaries; and may perhaps, as he intimates, be interesting to

posterity. He had a right to believe, that many of the reading and scientific world would be willing to hear him speak of himself; and his friends were naturally expected to supply omissions and deficiencies in his own memoirs by information concerning his life, his character, and publications. The object of this work is therefore to be approved. Of the merit of the execution let the reader judge; using, if he pleases, such light on the subject as we may be able to give. The authors of the additions to that part of the work composed by Dr. P. are both the historians and advocates of his conduct, the critics and, generally, the panegyrists of his writings. They are not however content with vindicating his character and supporting his opinions; but indulge themselves, especially Mr. Cooper, in a contemptuous and sometimes vulgar and abusive treatment of his opponents. Indeed the manner of this gentleman often indicates, that, in his estimation, all who are not dunces, bigots, or knaves, will admit, that Dr. P. has cleared up the principal difficulties and settled the most perplexing questions in metaphysics, theology, and even politics.

The biographical part of the work begins with Memoirs written by Dr. P., dated Birmingham 1787: and is marked by that simplicity of style and manner, and

occasional negligence of the rules of writing, which distinguish all the compositions of this author. Dr. Joseph Priestley was the oldest son of Jonas Priestley, a cloth dresser ; and his mother was the daughter of a farmer at a village near Wakefield. He was born at Fieldhead, about six miles from Leeds in Yorkshire, March 13th, old style, 1733. In his childhood and youth he was sent to several schools, and had private instruction. At the age of sixteen he had acquired a pretty good knowledge of the learned languages, and had studied the Hebrew. In the interval between this and going to the academy, in 1752, three years, he read Grovesend's Elements of Natural Philosophy, Watts's Logick, Locke's Essay, &c. &c., went through a course of mathematical studies, learned Chaldee and Syriack, and began to read Arabick, also acquired French, Italian, and German. He had already at the grammarschool become acquainted with Annet's short-hand, and begun a correspondence with the author, suggesting some improvements. With these acquisitions, and with a view to the christian ministry, he entered the academy at Daventry, under the care of Mr., afterwards Dr. Ashworth as principal, and Mr. Clark sub-tutor ; where, in consequence of his proficiency, he was excused all the studies of the first year and a great part of those of the second. Our author here gives an account of the formation and progress of his religious sentiments and character. His father, his aunt, and relations, with whom he lived, were strict, though not bigotted Calvinists. The instructions he received, and the books that fell in his way, were all of the same complexion ; and he was at one time confirmed in the princi-

ples of Calvinism. He remembers being much distressed, that he could not feel a proper repentance for the sin of Adam, taking for granted that, without *this*, it could not be forgiven him. He observes,

‘ Having read many books of *experiences*, and in consequence of believing that a *new birth*, produced by the immediate agency of the Spirit of God, was necessary to salvation ; and not being able to satisfy myself that I had experienced any thing of the kind, I felt occasionally such distress of mind, as it is not in my power to describe, and which I still look back upon with horror. Notwithstanding I had nothing very material to reproach myself with, I often concluded that God had forsaken me ; and that mine was like the case of Francis Spira, to whom, as he imagined, repentance and salvation were denied. In that state of mind I remember reading the account of the man in the iron cage, in the Pilgrim's Progress, with the greatest perturbation.

I imagine that even these conflicts of mind were not without their use, as they led me to think habitually of God and a future state. And though my feelings were then, no doubt, too full of terror, what remained of them was a deep reverence for divine things ; and in time a pleasing satisfaction, which can never be effaced, and I hope was strengthened as I have advanced in life and acquired more rational notions of religion.’

The weakness of his constitution, which often led him to think he should not be long-lived, contributed with all the circumstances of his education to give him a serious turn of mind. In the congregation, to which he belonged, the business of religion was effectually attended to ; children and servants were catechized in publick ; and religious exercises were frequent in the week-time. He attended a weekly meeting of the young men, for conversation and prayer ; and officiated in his turn.

‘ At my Aunt's [with whom he resided] there was a monthly meeting of

women, who acquitted themselves in prayer as well as any of the men belonging to the congregation. Being at first a child in the family, I was permitted to attend their meetings, and growing up insensibly, heard them after I was capable of judging. My Aunt after the death of her husband prayed every morning and evening in her family, until I was about seventeen, when that duty devolved upon me.

The Lord's day was kept with peculiar strictness. No victuals were dressed on that day in any family. No member of it was permitted to walk out for recreation, but the whole of the day was spent at the publick meeting, or at home in reading, meditation, and prayer, in the family or the closet.

It was my custom at that time to recollect as much as I could of the sermons I heard, and to commit it to writing. This practice I began very early, and continued it until I was able from the heads of a discourse to supply the rest myself. For, not troubling myself to commit to memory much of the amplification, and writing at home almost as much as I had heard, I insensibly acquired a habit of composing with great readiness; and from this practice I believe I have derived great advantage through life; composition seldom employing so much time as would be necessary to write in long hand any thing I have published.

By these means, not being disgusted with these strict forms of religion, as many persons of better health and spirits probably might have been, (and on which account I am far from recommending the same strictness to others) I acquired in early life a serious turn of mind. Among other things I had at this time a great aversion to *Plays and Romances*, so that I never read any works of this kind except Robinson Crusoe, until I went to the academy. I well remember seeing my brother Timothy reading a book of Knight Errantry, and with great indignation I snatched it out of his hands, and threw it away.

Some time however before going to the academy he began to relax from the strictness of orthodoxy. The conversion of some clergymen, who had adopted the 'compromising doctrine' of Baxter,

tended to 'undermine his prejudices.' 'Thinking farther on these subjects,' says he, 'I was, before I went to the academy, an Arminian; but had by no means rejected the doctrine of the Trinity, or that of atonement.'

Three years, from 1752 to 1755, he spent at the academy with peculiar satisfaction. The state of the institution, he says, was peculiarly favourable to the serious pursuit of truth. The general plan of the studies may be seen in Dr. Doddridge's Lectures. The pupils were referred to authors on both sides of every question, and required to give an account of them. The most important works they were expected to abridge for future use. The tutors, Dr. Ashworth and Mr. Clark, being of different opinions, and the students being divided upon all the articles of theological orthodoxy and heresy, these articles were the subject of continual discussion. The tutors also being very young, at least as tutors, and some of the senior pupils excelling them in several branches of study, the lectures had often the air of friendly conversations. The pupils were encouraged to ask questions, and make remarks, with the greatest, but without any offensive freedom.

The reference to Hartley's *Observations on Man*, in the lectures, brought him acquainted with that work, which immediately engaged his attention, and became the basis of his metaphysical opinions. It fixed him in the belief of *necessity*, a doctrine from which, he says, he had derived the greatest comfort and benefit through life.

When he left the academy, the extreme of his heresy was Arianism; with a belief, more or less qualified of the doctrine of atonement. At this place, he had com-

posed his Institutes of natural and revealed Religion. He complains that he was greatly troubled, at the time, with an impediment in his speech ; but accepted an invitation to be assistant minister of a small dissenting congregation at Needham market, in Suffolk, upon a salary of 40*l.*, of which he received only 30*l.* per year ; the deficiency of his support being partly supplied by occasional remittances from Dr. Benson and Dr. Kippis, obtained from different charities. Though he avoided controversy in the pulpit, he fell under a suspicion of Arianism by his manner of treating the Unity of God in his lectures, and his colleague and hearers were dissatisfied : so that in 1758 he left the situation for Nantwich in Cheshire, where he was a minister and schoolmaster for three years. Before leaving Needham, in consequence, he says, of much pains and thought he came to reject the doctrine of atonement ; of the inspiration of the authors of the books of scripture, as *writers* ; and all idea of supernatural influence, except for the purpose of miracles. He published a treatise on the *Doctrine of Remission*—He also composed a treatise on English Grammar, printed 1761 ; and Observations on the Character and Reasoning of the apostle Paul, published afterwards in the Theological Repository.

From Nantwich he removed to Warrington, to be tutor in the languages at the new dissenting academy in that place. Here he delivered lectures, on the Theory of Language ; on Oratory and Criticism ; on History and general Policy ; on the Laws, Constitution, and History of England ; most of which were then, or soon after, printed or published. It was also his province, in this place of edu-

cation, to teach Elocution, Logick, and Hebrew. The two last branches of instruction, after two years, he exchanged with Dr. Aikin, for the *Civil Law* ; and one year he gave a course of lectures in Anatomy. In the midst of all these employments, he completed and printed his Chart of Biography, and History of Electricity ; the study of the subject of the latter, the experiments it details, the composition and publication being all executed in the leisure of a year, occupied in the manner before related.

On the second year after his arrival at Warrington, he married a daughter of Mr. Isaac Wilkinson, an iron master, at Wrexham, in Wales. He speaks with emphasis of the comfort he found in this connexion ; of the amiable and respectable qualities of the lady ; and her providence and affection in taking upon herself all the cares of the household.

After six years service at Warrington, for a bare subsistence, he accepted the pastoral office at Leeds, in 1767. By the practice of reading very loud and very slow every day, he had, in some measure, surmounted the impediment in his speech. Here he resumed the study of speculative theology, and by reading with care Dr. Lardner's *Letter on the Logos*, he became a Socinian, and observes, that, after the closest attention to the subject, he continually saw more reason to be satisfied with the truth, as well as impressed with the importance of that view of christianity.

The press teemed with his publications on theology and politicks, and other subjects. During this period, a treatise on Perspective ; his Harmony of the Evangelists ; Catechisms ; Address to masters of families, on prayer ; Institutes,

&c., saw the light. Here he began to make experiments on air ; being led to the subject by attending to the phenomenon of fixed air, in a brewery adjoining ; and in 1772, he produced a pamphlet on the subject, which interested the scientific part of the community.

After six years residence at Leeds, he accepted an invitation from the late Marquis of Lansdowne, then Earl of Shelburne, to reside with his lordship, as librarian, or rather literary companion and friend, with an establishment of a house and 250*l.* per year, and 150*l.* for life, in case of their previous separation. During his connexion with his lordship, which continued seven years, he visited, in his company, France, Holland, and some parts of Germany. He pursued his chemical inquiries, and published four volumes of experiments on air ; Observations on Education ; Lectures on Oratory and Criticism ; the third part of the Institutes of natural and revealed Religion ; a Reply to the Scotch metaphysicians, Reid, Oswald, and Beattie ; that part of Hartley on Man, relating to the association of ideas ; a Harmony of the Gospels, and a controversy with Archbp. Newcomb, on the duration of our Lord's ministry ; and Disquisitions on Matter and Spirit.

For two years before he left the Marquis, he had perceived marks of dissatisfaction, of which he knew not the cause ; and finally they parted in friendship. Dr. P. spent the following winter in London, where he was much with Dr. Franklin. He then removed to Birmingham, where he succeeded Mr. Hawkes, as minister and colleague with Mr. Blyth, in a congregation, which he praises for its liberality. Here he continued his

philosophical pursuits, and composed and sent from the press the Corruptions of Christianity ; Correspondence with Dr. Horsley ; and History of early opinions concerning Jesus Christ. And after these, in consequence of the number of his antagonists, he wrote an annual pamphlet in defence of the Unitarian doctrine, against all his opponents.

Such is the sketch of the Memoirs of himself, to 1787. There is a short continuation, by his own hand, bringing them to the year 1795, when he was at Northumberland. He thought he had the prospect of passing the remnant of his life happily at Birmingham ; but he was continually growing more obnoxious to the friends of the government, and of the establishment. At length, when several of his friends celebrated the French revolution, July 14, 1791, a mob collected, and set fire to the dissenting meeting-houses, and to several dwelling-houses of dissenters ; among others, that of Dr. P., and demolished his library, apparatus, and papers. He was forced to take refuge from their fury, in the metropolis. Sometime after his arrival there, he was chosen to succeed Dr. Price, at Hackney ; and was a lecturer in the new college in that place. But the prejudices against him being very strong, and his sons emigrating to the United States, he followed them to this country in April, 1794, where he settled at Northumberland, a town situated at the confluence of the north-east, and west branches of the Susquehanna, and about 130 miles north-west of Philadelphia.

From this period the Memoirs are continued by the son, Joseph Priestley. The first part of this continuation is occupied with a long

statement of the reasons, which induced Dr. P. to leave England ; and a refutation of the opinion, that he had cause to be dissatisfied with his reception here, or was disappointed in his expectation of respect, consideration, and enjoyment in this land of freedom, and 'asylum of oppressed humanity.' In his new situation Dr. P. continued his theological and philosophical studies and experiments. For two or three winters after his arrival he delivered lectures on the Evidences of Christianity, in Philadelphia. In the successive years till his death he composed and published the remaining volumes of his Church History, Notes on the Scriptures, a Comparison of the Institutions of the Mosaick Religion with those of the Hindoos, several pamphlets and communications to societies upon philosophical subjects and in defence of phlogiston, &c. In 1799, thinking his political character and sentiments misunderstood and misrepresented, he published letters on politicks, which, his son thinks, satisfied the liberal and candid, and procured him friends. Whilst he was looking forward with pleasure to future exertions in the fields of science, his constitution began to fail. He became subject to a constant indigestion, extremely troublesome, and attended with increasing debility. He wrote and read however till the last, and died apparently in the full vigour of his mind and with the utmost tranquillity and even cheerfulness. We extract the description of his last hours :

'On Saturday, the 4th, my father got up for about an hour while his bed was made. He said he felt more comfortable in bed than up. He read a good deal, and looked over the first sheet of the third volume of the Notes, that he might see how we were likely to go on with it ; and having examined the

Greek and Hebrew quotations, and finding them right, he said he was satisfied we should finish the work very well. In the course of the day, he expressed his gratitude in being permitted to die quietly in his family, without pain, with every convenience and comfort he could wish for. He dwelt upon the peculiarly happy situation in which it had pleased the Divine Being to place him in life ; and the great advantage he had enjoyed in the acquaintance and friendship of some of the best and wisest men in the age in which he lived, and the satisfaction he derived from having led an useful as well as a happy life.

On Sunday he was much weaker, and only sat up in an armed chair while his bed was made. He desired me to read to him the eleventh chapter of John. I was going on to read to the end of the chapter, but he stopped me at the 45th verse. He dwelt for some time on the advantage he had derived from reading the scriptures daily, and advised me to do the same ; saying, that it would prove to me, as it had done to him, a source of the purest pleasure. He desired me to reach him a pamphlet which was at his bed's head, Simpson on the Duration of future Punishment. "It will be a source of satisfaction to you to read that pamphlet," said he, giving it to me. "It contains my sentiments, and a belief in them will be a support to you in the most trying circumstances, as it has been to me. We shall all meet finally : we only require different degrees of discipline, suited to our different tempers, to prepare us for final happiness." Upon Mr. ——— coming into his room, he said, "You see, Sir, I am still living."

Mr. ——— observed, he would always live. "Yes," said he, "I believe I shall ; and we shall all meet again in another and a better world." He said this with great animation, laying hold on Mr. ———'s hand in both his.

Before prayers he desired me to reach him three publications, about which he would give me some directions next morning. His weakness would not permit him to do it at that time.

At prayers he had all the children brought to his bed-side as before. After prayers they wished him a good night, and were leaving the room. He desired them to stay, spoke to them each separately. He exhorted them

all to continue to love each other. "And you, little thing," speaking to Eliza, "remember the hymn you learned; 'Birds in their little nests agree,' &c. I am going to sleep as well as you: for death is only a good long sound sleep in the grave, and we shall meet again." He congratulated us on the dispositions of our children; said it was a satisfaction to see them likely to turn out well; and continued for some time to express his confidence in a happy immortality, and in a future state, which would afford us an ample field for the exertion of our faculties.

On Monday morning, the 6th of February, after having lain perfectly still till four o'clock in the morning, he called to me, but in a fainter tone than usual, to give him some wine and tincture of bark. I asked him how he felt. He answered, he had no pain, but appeared fainting away gradually. About an hour after, he asked me for some chicken broth, of which he took a tea-cup full. His pulse was quick, weak, and fluttering, his breathing, though easy, short. About 8 o'clock, he asked me to give him some egg and wine. After this he lay quite still till ten o'clock, when he desired me and Mr. Cooper to bring him the pamphlets we had looked out the evening before. He then dictated as clearly and distinctly as he had ever done in his life the additions and alterations he wished to have made in each. Mr. Cooper took down the substance of what he said, which, when he had done, I read to him. He said Mr. Cooper had put it in his own language; he wished it to be put in his. I then took a pen and ink to his bed-side. He then repeated over again, nearly word for word, what he had before said; and when I had done, I read it over to him. "That is right; I have now done." About half an hour after he desired, in a faint voice, that we would move him from the bed on which he lay to a cot, that he might lie with his lower limbs horizontal, and his head upright. He died in about ten minutes after we had moved him, but breathed his last so easy, that neither myself or my wife, who were both sitting close to him, perceived it at the time. He had put his hand to his face, which prevented our observing it."

Observations, suggested by the Memoirs, and the review of other
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parts of this publication, will appear in the next Anthology.

ART. 23.

The New Cyclopædia, &c. by Abraham Rees and others. First American Edition, revised, corrected, enlarged, and adapted to this country, by several literary and scientific characters. Vol. I. Part II. Philadelphia, Samuel F. Bradford. 4to.

THE honour of our country was deeply interested in the protest, we made against the practices of the American Editors of this work in publishing the first part of the first volume. In the republication of foreign books, of inferior importance, by printers without character, we have learned, by melancholy experience, to expect shameful mutilations of fact, and perversions of sentiment. But this valuable Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences was announced to the American publick with such promising auspices, 'revised, corrected, enlarged, and adapted to this country by several literary and scientific characters,' that to have suspected it, would have been criminal. From these literary and scientific characters we could not expect the artifices of African traders, who dilute and adulterate their liquors, because they can do it without raising any jealousy in the ignorant purchasers.

The appearance of the first number confounded our hopes. The publisher we knew, and him we trusted; but this knot of nameless editors, without responsibility, imposing on the printer and the publick, have degraded our literary character by folly without parallel, and meanness without example. The imputation shall not however be universal.

From the garblings of the articles on religion we conclude, either, that the American Editors, confident in their own principles, were desirous of assuming infallibility and compelling us to follow them without examination; or, feeling their own weakness, were too diffident to meet the trans-atlantick theologians on equal ground in the arena of argument. On the horns of this dilemma we leave them to dangle. If the infidelity of Gibbon and the heresy of Priestley are to be controverted, let it be with decency, and let them be heard.

Nor was it only of the treatment of topics in theology, that we complained. The biography of Abernethy, one of the best Christians since the reformation, was so shamefully perverted, that it seemed, our Philadelphia publishers were to be alone holy in life, as well as infallible in doctrine. Though nearly 70 years have elapsed, since his body was committed to the grave, they have, like the vampyre, torn it from its sanctuary and endeavoured to defile it.

Tantane animis cælestibus iræ?

Dwells there such anger in religious souls?

The general sentiment of indignation at such practices was uttered in so audible a manner, as to draw from the printer assurances, that he would 'give the text of the English Edition entire, except when erroneous in point of fact; and at the same time counteract the tendency of any pernicious doctrines, which it might be found to contain, by additional remarks and references, distinguished by crotches from the original article.' The Editors wince a little at being so confined to the text, and in the third number, article ANGEL, explain the principles, on which they

shall conduct the commentary. Far be it from us to 'sympathise with hereticks and infidels;' and far be from us, infallible doctors of Philadelphia, any fear of openly canvassing the merits of your labours. We propose henceforward to examine chiefly the additions of the American Editors, and hope to pursue the subject monthly, till we overtake the publishers, and then to proceed with them in equal pace.

With the publisher's promises for the future we are satisfied; and, if they shall be adhered to, we earnestly desire the success of the undertaking. But the former offence can hardly be expiated without reprinting the first half-volume, *as it should be*, to satisfy the honour of the country, which they have stained; the laws of morality, which they have violated; the subscribers, whom they have wronged; and the publick, that they have insulted.

We shall expect in the American Edition, that the corrections and improvements, on subjects of geography, especially of our own country, will exceed in number those of all other branches of science. Some disappointment therefore is felt, when we find the article ALBANY, extracted into our Philadelphia Edition in the same words, which the English have used. The population of the city is settled by the general census of 1801, though the older census is followed in this book. Under this head the new articles of this quarto are sixteen in number, and cover perhaps a page and a half. They are ALCINO Mont, a small town of Tuscany; ALCONCHOL, a castle in Spain; ALBERTON Point, in our harbour of Boston; ALFRED, a small village in York county and district of Maine; ALLAN SHEER,

the ancient Philadelphia, in Asia Minor; ALMSBURY, on Merrimack river, in the county of Essex, which we believe should be spelt Amesbury; ALPNACH, a town of Switzerland; ALSTEAD, a small town in the county of Cheshire, state of New-Hampshire; ALTEN, a river of Norway; ALTIKESEK, a tribe of barbarians of Mount Caucasus; ALTORF, an insignificant town in Germany in the circle of Swabia; ALTUN KUPFREE, a city of Kurdistan; ALTYN OBO, a hill in the Crimea; ALVIDRAS, a remarkable rock of Portugal, near Lisbon; ALUPKA, a village of the Crimea; ALY-GHUR, a fort in India. Of these articles it will be seen, that most are of little value; yet they display the carefulness of the American Editors. An article of more importance, we believe, than any of these, is omitted in both publications. ALTAVELA, a small island in the West Indies, south of Cape Beata on the shore of Hispaniola. It is very high, and on account of its shape is one of the most distinguishable landmarks in the Caribbean Sea.

Additions are made to the articles in geography, ALDERBURGH, ALEPPO, ALEXANDRIA, ALHUYS, ALLEGHANY River, ALLEGHANY Mountains, ALNWICK, ALSTON Moor, ALTDORF, ALPS. The new matter may amount to another page and a half. The articles ALEPPO and ALLEGHANY only have any material gain from our American publishers. On Dr. Russell's directions for avoiding the plague, under the former of them, the American Editors have some useful remarks. But we must protest against a word, that three times thrust itself into their half-page. We believe the English language knows no such word, as 'preventative.' We

have indeed a trisyllable, that conveys the meaning, intended by those writers, and perhaps *preventive* sounds as well, as the word now made with two letters more.

But we have a cause of complaint, relating to several of these articles, last mentioned; which is, that when only a sentence, or a paragraph is added, the whole head is claimed by the brackets, that we thought were to distinguish the respective property of the English and American authors. Can it be possible, that the Philadelphia publishers would have their subscribers believe, that the work of Dr. Rees and his coadjutors is so imperfect, as to want such articles as ALEXANDRIA and ALLEGHANY? It may however be admitted, as an excuse for this error, that this is the first No., in which the Addenda were to be divided from the original. We shall therefore expect more carefulness in future.

ALBUGO. We cannot find, as the American Editors refer to Ware on Cataract, the mode of restoring vision in a certain case, We should not expect a recommendation of such practice from that author; for in one part of his work he observes, that, when the iris is simply punctured or divided, its edges are very apt to come together and reunite. In cases therefore, in which the pupil is closed, he recommends the formation of a new pupil by the excision of a flap, or semi-circular portion of the iris. The other observations upon articles of medical science are, we believe, judicious and correct.

To the article ALEMBERT a short paragraph is added by the republishers, expressive of regret, that his virtues 'should have been found in alliance with principles, tending to the destruction of all

virtue.' Another brief observation on the character of ALEXANDER VI., derived from Roscoe's Leo X., and a notice of ALONZO, that we expect to meet in the English under OJEDA, is the sum of the additions on biography. We know not, that the Editors on this side of the Atlantick could have introduced any other new head in this part of the first volume. We will however remark for their benefit, that, in the first part, the biography of SAMUEL ADAMS was unsatisfactory : and that we hope more in the notices of BELKNAP and CLARKE, two of the brightest ornaments of American literature.

ALIBI has gained a single sentence, which makes the description in the American Edition better than that of the English ; but like the articles, of which we spoke above, it is all included in brackets, though not worth claiming from the foreign publishers.

ALIEN has acquired a paragraph, in which are two mistakes of the press, '*qua*' for '*quasi*,' we presume ; and '2 Ver.' for '2 Vez.'

The next addition is of the word ALLEY, a passage between opposite buildings, which proves the carefulness of our Philadelphia publishers to supply all the deficiencies of the original.

Several quotations of the use of the figure ALLITERATION do not, we believe, give any additional force to the remarks in the English Cyclopædia. It is a decoration of little value ; though, unless eagerly introduced *per fas et nefas*, not indicative of false refinement. It lends considerable strength to an antithesis. 'What though he riots in the plunder of the army, and has only determined to be a *patriot*, when he could not be a *peer*.'

ALLUSION. The American editors have here made the best re-

mark we find among their labours. The simile and the allusion from Goldsmith, are well placed in opposition, to discriminate their respective force. It is a species of comparison of great weight, and by its brevity is usually more interesting, than an allegory or a simile. Junius, the poignant writer of short sentences, abounds in the use of it. His reference to the Roman Catholick church denying the cup to the laity, if it may be thought free from levity, is an excellent instance. Lord Weymouth, he says, must have bread, or rather he must have wine. 'If you deny him the cup, there will be no keeping him within the pale of the ministry.'

In the article ALLUVION, a short account is given of the formation of the banks of the river Mississippi, and their gradual protrusion into the gulf of Mexico. Here we meet a very glaring mistake. 'At New-Orleans, three hundred miles above the present mouth of the river.' We had thought that every man, woman, and child in the United States, was so well acquainted with that part of our dominions, as to know, that that city is only thirty-five leagues from the river's mouth.

Of the last addition we have to mention, which is under the word ALVAH, we can only remark, that we do not apprehend the meaning of the sentence.

The American Editors can claim no great honours for the additions to this part of the first volume ; yet we are not prepared to say, that they have not subjoined to every article whatever was wanting, and perhaps inserted every necessary subject, neglected by their predecessors. In this number their addenda do not amount to more than four or five pages ; but we hope the ensuing volumes will af-

ford us more novelty to examine, and more excellence to praise.

The printer has most honourably performed his engagements to the publick. The type is much neater than the English ; the ink, too, is better, and the paper whiter ; but we fear the American, having a large mixture of cotton in its composition, will be less durable than the English. The typographical errors are less numerous, than might have been feared ; yet sufficiently so, to afford us some vexation.

IN AHLWAROT, *immorality* for *immortality*.

For AHUYS, read Åhus.

ST. ALBAN. A comma, carelessly inserted in the English verses, confuses their meaning, and we can learn it only by turning to the Latin.

Under ALCAIC ODE, the line sors exitura, &c., is quoted in two different ways, of which the last is right.

ALCMANIAN has two errors, *cano* for *canto*, and *munere* for *munera* ; but both are borrowed from the English work.

ALCOHOL. The citation of the verses from Juvenal, is incorrect in both editions.

ALHUYS, should read Alhus.

* { ALLEVEURE, Half-öre.

{ ALMSTAD,† Halmstad.

In a work of this kind it cannot be excused, under any pretence, to alter the spelling of a word, in a foreign language, for the purpose of assimilating the original pro-

....

* These two words are probably copied from a French author, who may have supposed the letter H mute, from a mistaken pronunciation. Whereas the fact is, that throughout the Swedish language, the letter H is always aspirated before a vowel, and mute before a consonant.

† There is no town of that name in Sweden.

nunciation of the word to that of the language in which we write.

ALL SOULS. *Joxtin* for *Jortin* ; *Alcmaer* for *Alcmaar*.

Under ALMON. *Tiberin* for *Tiberim*.

ART. 24.

Poems by Richard B. Davis ; with a sketch of his life.

‘ A simple, solitary bard was he.’

New-York, T. & J. Swords.
1807. 12mo.

THE sketch of Mr. Davis's life, which is prefixed to this little collection, has prepossessed us much in his favour, as a man ; but we shall be extremely careful, that this opinion do not interfere with our consideration of him, as a poet. This collection is very miscellaneous, and the poems, generally, of no inconsiderable length. ‘ An elegy on a broken flute’ is the first in the series, and, we are told, the earliest production of our poet's Muse. In this performance, tho' altogether respectable for the first essay, yet we find very little to amuse, and nothing to cause our admiration. The versification, excepting an hiatus here and there, is tolerable ; and the rhymes are invariably correct. The two next poems are altogether negative, and far inferior to the first ; they are remarkable only for four or five instances of bad rhyme, and one grammatical error. We now come to the ‘ Hymn of the Morning Stars,’ in which, there is an appearance of labour, and, we are sorry to say, to very little purpose. The design of this poem is truly happy ; but the execution comparatively wretched. ‘ Celestial harmony symphonious rung,’ and ‘ Hail to the power supreme, clothed in the glories of omnipotence,’

are tautological expressions. The word, *beatifick*, is misapplied, for it is appropriated to heavenly enjoyments after death. To say, 'enthroned in regions of *uncreated* light,' is ridiculous: we may as well say, 'placed on an *uncreated* stool'; and this rhyme,

Through the vast expanse of the universe,—

And fix it in immortal characters,

would not have disgraced the ungovernable pen of Sternhold or Hopkins. When speaking of Jehovah, the poet has this expression, 'On the thick bosses of his buckler rush'd'; the absurdity here is evident. This little poem is by no means without some excellent lines, and beautiful expressions.

'Thence distant worlds shall catch the glorious strain,
And heav'n's eternal arch th' exalted notes retain.

CHORUS.

Seraphs! begin the sacred sound,
Empyrean echoes! bear it round,
Let world to world the joy convey,
Far as extends creation's day;
Cherubick harps! the notes prolong,
And fondly dwell upon the song.'

There are some others, but the performance is very unequal.

This poem is followed by a number of others, not worth an examination here; and, among these, one 'to a sleeping infant,' which begins *prettily* enough, and ends *very prettily*; but when the poet pronounced the following:

'On his hard couch when restless
av'rice quakes,'

we presume the infant must have been very considerably roused, by the rough sibilation of the line.

The next in order, of which we can make up our mouths to say any thing, is the 'Exile.' From the first stanza, we were led to hope for a pretty little poem; but the hopes of man are blasted in a mo-

ment, and this little production is the vilest, on the whole, that we have seen throughout the book:

..... 'turpiter atrum,
Desinit in piscem mulier formosa superne.'

In the 'Summer Evening' there is this expression, 'evening sheds her silver smile.' We can shed our blood, a serpent can shed his skin, &c., but we do not conceive it possible to shed a smile. The 'Elegy on the death of Dr. Joseph Youle,' is very much like a sermon in verse, without possessing one characteristic of a good discourse. The verse is so inharmonious, that it would have answered very well, instead of Demosthenes' pebbles. Who can pronounce the second line of this performance, without some compassion for the society, before whom it was delivered?

'Sorrow, thy louder ecstasies restrain.'

We next come to the 'Epitaph on my Grandmother,' which we cannot resist the pleasure of transcribing, it is so perfectly harmless:

Sweet are the peaceful slumbers of the just,
And guardian angels watch their sacred dust;
Death is to them in richest mercy given,
To them the tomb is but the gate of heaven.'

This is an epitaph on Mr. Davis' grandmother, although it would suit any other grandmother perfectly as well. We do not censure Mr. Davis for writing ridiculous and unmeaning verses on his grandmother; but we consider his editors highly culpable, for inserting, in this little volume, this and many other performances, which do not amount even to the dignity of trifles. In the 'Ode from Horace,' we were induced to hope for something classical, but we are

obliged to apply the shepherd's admonition, in its full force, '*nimum ne crede colori.*' There is often too great distance between the design and execution, and this position is admirably realized in the translation of this little ode. It is intended as a translation of the seventh ode of the third book, '*Ad Asterien*;' which Dr. Francis has barbarously murdered with his clerical quill; and whoever will trouble himself to survey the Doctor's translation, will see how cruelly he has mangled poor Asteria, and that she expires, not without many groans. Now, that such a kind-hearted man, as Mr. Davis is represented to have been, should ever take it into his head to murder poor Asteria over again, is past all bearing; and we shall therefore be as just to his translation, as we possibly can. Mr. Davis has changed the name Gyges for Damon, because the latter was somewhat *frettier* and *softer*, &c., but he has here already stepped one foot out of the way of a translator. He knew well enough that Gyges did not mean Damon. Had he intended this as an imitation, he might have called him Corydon, or Balthazar, or any thing he pleased; but, as a translator, he should have called him Gyges. In the translation of the first stanza, he has omitted '*Thynâ merce beatum.*' In the second, he has omitted '*Ille notis actus ad Oricum.*' What he means by '*Guided by the midnight star,*' we can form no sort of conjecture; if he has contrived to weave this line out of '*Post insana Capræ sidera,*' he is truly a most ingenious weaver, for this passage is directly contrary to the signification he has given it. But we are tired of this: in short, this 'ode from Horace' is not from Horace. The fundamental rules,

established by Dr. Campbell, of Aberdeen, are three. 1...That the translation should give a complete transcript of the ideas of the original. 2...That the style and manner of the original should be preserved in the translation. 3...That the translation should have all the ease of the original composition. In all these points, Mr. Davis has failed; and we are sorry, since the versification of this ode has given us the best example of his art, in the mechanics of metrical composition.

The '*Elegy on an old wig found in the street,*' might have been a much better elegy than it is. It is a good subject for mock-elegy, and Mr. Davis has, for the most part, handled it with palsied fingers. In justice to merit, however, we cannot pass over these truly facetious stanzas without wishing, that the author had been as fortunate in the other parts of the poem, as in that, where he addresses the wig;

'Some judge sagacious, learned in the law,
Us'd thee, perhaps, his solemn frown
t'improve;
While culprits, juries, courts, with
rev'rend awe,
Shook like Olympus at the nod of Jove.
Some grave professor's head has been
thy place,
Haply 'twas thine his office to bespeak;
While, clinging closely round his classic face,
Each learned curl seem'd buckled stiff
with Greek.
Some bard, perhaps, in meditation deep,
Some student hard of Demosthenian
stamp,
Giving to study the soft hours of sleep,
Hath sing'd thy tresses at the midnight
lamp.'

The adjective, formed from Demosthenes, is Demosthenean; the antepenult short, & the penult long.

The other poems, in this collection, are of no importance to the

critick ; for they will produce no effect upon the reader, either pleasant or otherwise. They belong to that numerous tribe of negative productions, that are published every day, which are read, and are forgotten ; for they have no adhesive quality, whereby they can fasten themselves upon the mind, and perpetuate their remembrance.

This collection of poems is, on the whole, hardly worth the trouble of perusing. The ideas are considerably poetical in some of these performances, although novelty is the least prominent feature on the face of this collection. The execution of these verses is by no means rude, and by no means polished. The versification, however, is very unequal. We are very far from saying these verses are composed, 'Musis et Apolline nullo,' but we do not hesitate to affirm, they are composed, Musis et Apolline parvo.

Wishing does not belong to our province, but we cannot prevent ourselves from wishing, that Mr. Davis had lived to a more advanced age ; or that he had applied himself more studiously to poetry, in his earlier years. Had this been the case, we should have had the satisfaction of enjoying the fruits of a genius more matured, and the Muses would not have blushed when weeping on his grave.

ART. 25.

Letters to a young lady, on a course of English Poetry. By J. Aikin, M. D. Boston : Published by Munroe & Francis, and by Thomas & Whipple, Newburyport. 1806. 12mo.

THIS is a choice little work, and brings the pupil very pleasantly acquainted with the poets. It is

written with that even judgment and just taste, for which the Doctor is distinguished, and though less laboured, intentionally perhaps, than the popular *Letters to his Son*, is in no respect unworthy the author. To be at once easy, entertaining, and instructive, requires a union of talents, which is rarely possessed, and which the Doctor, not deserving perhaps of the first honours of criticism, may be allowed to enjoy in an eminent degree. If the performance of more than we promise entitle us to praise, we conceive ourselves indebted to the author to the amount of another compliment ; for his present labour is not only worthy, as he would have it, of the attention of a young student of poetry, but may be read with edification by the oldest admirer of the Muses.

We understand that some of the wits of England accuse the Aikins of book-making ; an employment, it seems, not the most honourary which letters afford, and in nowise, we should presume, appropriable to any branch of the family. If the lighter, but useful, publications, which Mrs. Barbauld and her brother have obligingly put together for the improvement of youth, are considered as specimens of this kind of manufacture, we can only observe, that we feel a respect for the craft, and wish success to its partners. It may appear rash in us to call in question the awards of our superiours, and we hope for our own sakes, that what we have heard may be traced in the end to the scandalous club ; yet we cannot avoid expressing our disapprobation of any ungentle remarks upon the Doctor and his connexions. If they are not to be admitted on the valued file of authors, we should

like to be directed, in this dearth of polite literature, to those whose pretensions are fairer. We suspect that their numbers are easily computed; unless the eccentricities of the new school of poetry are to be thrown into the account, who compose elegies on asses, or annually lie-in with an epick. The occasion, however, of this disaffection to the Doctor is readily explained. There are in all literary communities a set of difficult sparks, who pronounce every thing execrable, which is not positively divine, and with one sweeping clause cut up by the root a second-rate author, with the same unconcern, as they cut open his leaves. But we have been too long acquainted with the pretensions of inferior excellence not to allow, that there is much worth preserving, which falls short of their standard. Though the Doctor in his poetical criticisms may be less copious than Johnson, or elaborate than Hurd, he has performed to the utmost what he seems to have intended, and we could wish, that his opponents were invariably as fortunate.

It is a reviving reflection to an author, that it is not in the power of a name to destroy his pretensions; that though the world may be set against him for a time by the oracle of the day, he will attain in the end the celebrity he merits. Notwithstanding Johnson's reputation as a critick, it has been suspected of late that his taste was confined, and it is now considered excusable to fall out with the Prefaces. Poor Collins is every day getting better of the faint praise of his friend, and it is thought that the bard may yet pass for a prophet. We must not be charged with a want of reverence for the Rambler, for there

are none more alive to his merits, than the gentlemen of the Anthology. We know, that he moved in the literary world with the firm step and imposing port of a giant, but it cannot be concealed, that he sometimes passed, unimpressed, by a sublimity, and sometimes uncouthly set his foot on a grace. In pursuing the track of his predecessor, in the series before us, Doctor Aikin has occasionally done justice to those, who have suffered by his severity. Among the numbers, who have been reinstated in their literary claims, we were happy to notice the eccentric Dean of St. Patrick's. Whether, because Johnson's aristocracy was hurt by the Doctor's familiarities with the great, or because his Deanship had neglected to procure him a degree, or on what account, or no account, he entertained his dislike, our readers, if disposed, may conjecture for themselves: but we are convinced, either for something or nothing, that he was inclined to disparage both the man and his works. However, the superiority of Swift is not easily veiled; and those, who would deny him the first praise as a wit, may expect to be accused of stupidity or prejudice. Sheridan has lately acquainted us with the moral excellences of the Drapier, and Doctor Aikin has now pronounced him a writer *perfect* in his kind.

With the criticisms on Hammond and Young (we beg pardon of the Muses for coupling them) we are not, we confess, so perfectly satisfied. We conceive that the Doctor has spoken rather timidly in praise of the latter, and that he might, conscientiously, have said less of the former. Upon the merits of the Love Elegies perhaps we ought to be silent,

for some time has elapsed since we had the heart to peruse them. However, should we, from existing impressions, venture an opinion concerning them, we should agree, what with the cloying nature of their theme, and the die-away style, in which it is treated, that they were peculiarly adapted to give one a surfeit.

'Love, only love, their forceless numbers mean.'

Of any ill effects, that might attend a close acquaintance with the Night Thoughts, we cannot conceive. Few minds, we believe, owe their melancholy or cheerfulness to the influence of song; and the fears, which our author entertains of the dejected muse of Doctor Young, appear, we must say, altogether extravagant. Besides, allowing the lady aforesaid to be rather grave in her suggestions, the critick should recollect that it is wholesome, occasionally, to visit the tombs. We own we love at midnight to follow this mournful sister of poesy over the uneven footing of the church yard, or to pause with her by moonlight on the broken colonade.

'The tombs

And monumental caves of death look cold,

And shoot a chillness to my trembling heart.

Give me thy hand, and let me hear thy voice.'

Were we to go into a particular criticism upon this performance, we should exceed the usual limits allotted to a notice; we must therefore content ourselves with a general acknowledgment of its merits. To say, simply, that we have been pleased with the style in which it is executed, would be indirectly to withhold what we consider its due. Perhaps no production of a critical cast could

have been rendered more entertaining; and its airiness is not obtained at the expense of sound comment.

This work is neatly executed.

ART. 26.

The Echo: printed at the Porcupine Press, by Pasquin Petronius. 8vo. New-York, 1807.

OF the type and paper of this volume, which contains 331 pages, we may justly speak with approbation. The plates likewise, which are eight in number, designed by Tisdale, and engraved by Leney, possess considerable merit. That of the negro-ball contains an admirable likeness of a *ci-devant* governor of this state. The work itself is said to be the production of various political wits in Connecticut, who, at different periods, have employed their talents in ludicrously versifying the prosaick absurdities, which occasionally appeared in the democrattick papers. The Echo amused the publick for the moment, was read, excited a laugh, and was forgotten.

We little expected to see a performance, thus local in its subjects, and therefore not likely to excite more than a temporary interest, come forward, at the expiration of several years, in all the dignity of octavo, and ornamented with splendid type, paper, and engravings; nor did we imagine, that the crude and unfinished trifles of an idle hour, would obtrude themselves on the grave tribunal of profest criticism. Vanity is said to be our national foible, and we are sorry that the authors of the Echo have afforded additional confirmation to the truth of the remark.

We cannot, indeed, discover sufficient merit, in the contents of

this volume, to justify re-publication, which, we firmly believe, can now be read with interest by the writers only. At the same time, we enter our protest against this custom of book-making, by which we are invited to purchase, at an advanced price, what we have already paid for. Should this volume succeed, it may operate as an encouragement for the revival of much deceased trash, and may awaken from the peaceful slumber of oblivion, the *Gleanings* of the Centinel, the *Flowers* of the Repository, and the *Beauties* of the Palladium. We fear, that New-England wit can be relished only in New-England; and if M'Fingal is an exception, that exception only *proves the rule*. We excel more in judgment, than in imagination, like the inhabitants of Scotland, whom we are thought greatly to resemble, where wit is so rare a prodigy, as to have become almost proverbial. In the Echo there is some broad *humour*; a severe critick would say vulgarity, but no wit. We are not yet arrived at a sufficient height of civilization to write satire like gentlemen; as would be soon discovered, were Horace as well understood as he deserves to be:

Defendente vicem modò rhetoris, at-
que poëtæ;
Interdum urbani, parcentis viribus, atque
Extenuantis eas consultò.

HOR. S. 10. l. 1.

ART. 27.

An account of the life and writings of James Beattie, L.L.D. late professor of moral philosophy and logick in the Marischal college and university of Aberdeen. Including many of his original letters. By Sir William Forbes, of

Pitsligo, Bart. one of the executors of Dr. Beattie.

Earum rerum omnium vel in primis, &c. &c.
CICERO pro Archia.

New-York, published by Brisan & Brannan, No. 1, City-Hotel, Broadway. 1807. 8vo.

THE rage for *book-making* seems lately to have vented itself by Memoirs, Lives, and Biographical Sketches. When a man, who has attained to any literary eminence, expires, the biographer anticipates the undertaker, and issues proposals for his 'Life,' before the publick have fairly received the intelligence of his death. It has been well observed by Mason, in his Life of Gray, that 'the lives of men of letters seldom abound with incidents. A reader does not find in the memoirs of a philosopher or poet, the same species of entertainment or information, which he would receive from those of a statesman or general. He expects, however, to be informed or entertained,' &c. &c. But of what consequence to the world is the domestick history of men, who have passed their days in studious seclusion, and who have taken no active part in the great drama of life? Would not that, which is most essential to be known, shine brighter through the medium of their literary labours? We do not mean by this to confine their 'names,' and their 'history,' to the 'storied urn;' (the reader would, sometimes, be little bettered by this bargain); our only intention is to check the *spinsters* and the *knitters* of *Lives*, *Sketches*, and *Memoirs*, in their tedious tales, and in wearying us with the trifling anecdotes of men, whose works we view with as much delight, as we look upon their private lives with indifference. Sir William tells us in

his appendix to this octavo, that he intended to have inserted the '*Diary, which Dr. Beattie kept of the number of days he was reading Homer ;*' but finding upon calculation '*that it did not exceed what any young man, with no extraordinary degree of application, might accomplish,*' he thought proper to withhold it ; and thus the world is deprived of the number of days, and perhaps hours and minutes, consumed by the Doctor, in his '*perusal of Homer.*' We are very glad, that we know in what state his gown was, in which he was wrapped while reading it ; for he tells us himself, in a letter to the Rev. Dr. Majeudie, that it was '*very ragged,*' and, for that reason, facetiously compares himself to Socrates.

Of all the ways of presenting a man to the world, hitherto devised, that of publishing his private letters is perhaps the most unfair. It is like taking a man out of his bed, or pulling him from his closet, to thrust him into company, where it is indecent to be seen in an undress. Letters *intended* for publication are always dull things at best ; and those meant only for the eye of a friend ought never to appear in print. The former commonly possess too little of that freedom peculiar to the epistolary style ; the latter generally contain too much. Dr. Beattie himself was partly of this opinion, and probably would have heard with regret, that many of these letters were to be seen by others than those to whom they were addressed. In one of his letters to Robert Arbuthnot, Esq. '*to publish a man's letters,*' says he, '*or his conversation, without his consent, is not in my opinion fair : for how many things, in friendly correspondence, does a man throw out,*

which he would never wish to hear of again ; and what a restraint would it be on all social intercourse, if one were to suppose, that every word one utters would be entered in a register.'

In this compilation of Letters, occasionally illustrated by Sir W. F., and which he has thought proper to entitle the '*Life of Dr. Beattie,*' the Dr.'s thoughts and opinions on men and things, together with the state of his health at various times, are given with all the frankness of undisguised friendship. There are also some of a more dignified nature, inscribed to men, who, he well knew, would exhibit them to others ; and in these the studied manner of the composition distinguish them from the rest. If the letter to Dr. Porteus is not in this class, it is one which seems to betray not a little art and vanity in the author. His opinion of Johnson as a critick, and his observations on the Tour to the Hebrides, must be taken with some indulgence ; for it must not be forgotten, that Dr. Beattie was born in Scotland. The extravagant encomium, however, which he bestows on Mrs. Montagu and her book, reflects but little credit on the author of the Essay on Truth :

'Johnson's harsh and foolish censure on Mrs. Montagu's book does not surprise me ; for I have heard him speak contemptuously of it. It is, for all that, *one of the best, most original, and most elegant pieces of criticism in our language, or any other.* Johnson had many of the talents of a critick ; but his want of temper, his violent prejudices, and something, I am afraid, of an envious turn of mind, made him often a very unfair one. Mrs. Montagu was very kind to him, but *Mrs. Montagu has more wit than any body ;* and Johnson could not bear that any body should have wit but himself. Even lord Chesterfield, and, what is more strange, even

Mr. Burke, he would not allow to have wit ! He preferred Smollet to Fielding. He would not grant that Armstrong's poem on '*Health*,' or the tragedy of '*Douglas*,' had any merit. He told me, that he never read Milton through, till he was obliged to do it in order to gather words for his Dictionary. He spoke very peevishly of the masque of '*Comus*;' and when I urged, that there was a great deal of poetry in it, yes, said he, *but it is like gold under a rock*; to which I made no reply, for indeed I did not well understand it.

His observation on Swift, Voltaire, Rousseau, &c. his criticisms on the '*Henriade*' and '*Eloise*,' and various other works, if not delivered with more justice, are given with more temperance.

We have reviewed this volume, as the Letters of Dr. Beattie; for it contains little beside of much value or importance. As to that part of it, which Sir William may probably call the '*Life*,' it is but a meagre performance, possessing all the monotony of Boswell, without Johnson for its subject. As the '*Letters of Dr. Beattie*,' it has afforded us all that pleasure, which we expected from the author of the *Minstrel*.

'He sleeps in dust, and all the Muses mourn.'
Minst. ver. lxi.

There are no less than eight paragraphs, which we have noted, and doubtless many have escaped us, in almost the same number of pages, beginning with '*it is very curious*,' and '*it is very singular*,' and it is '*not a little curious*,' in the illucidations of Sir William; from which we are inclined to give to his part of this performance the '*not a little curious*' style. Sir William debated with himself, whether to print his *notes* at the foot of each page, or, in the manner of '*fashionable publications*,' place them at the end of the vol-

ume; he ultimately chose the former mode, as by far the most convenient; and in our opinion his choice was assuredly most wise.

We cannot but admire a part of note 1. §. 1.

'It has been remarked by some, who are fond of fanciful analogies, that the tomb of Virgil, in the neighbourhood of Naples, was adorned with a laurel; the birth-place of Dr. Beattie was partly covered with ivy, as if to denote that it had produced a poet.'

The other notes, though many in number, are of little consequence. In the 3d of page 12, '*From what the Dr. was heard to say, &c. he preferred the reading of Hiensius' edition of Virgil.*' Very like he might; but this is merely hear-say evidence.

The typographical part of this volume is, like most of the publications from the press of Brisban & Brannan, of a clean type, on good paper, and generally correct.

ART. 28.

Twenty six sermons to young people; preached A.D. 1803, 1804: to which are added prayers, also three other sermons. By James Dana, D. D. Sydney Press, New-Haven. 1806.

A NEGATIVE character is universally allowed to be of all others the most difficult to be delineated. Of pre-eminent excellence a man may with the utmost safety express his opinion; for, though he may not give to excellence its due, yet will he always obtain credit for what commendation he bestows: and of indisputable worthlessness his modesty may with equal safety permit him to speak; for whether he break out in direct abuse, or utter but a gentle censure, the one is always too much relished

to excite disgust, and the other is invariably construed into candour. But it is hardly ever safe to express one's sentiments of those, who in common estimation are good, only because they are not bad. The remark applies with equal justice to literary productions. The task of reviewers is at no time so difficult, as when they have to deal with such works; especially when the slightest condemnation is regarded as the height of illnature, and the critick, who has the interest of literature at heart, is looked upon with an eye of jealousy, for assuming what he is entitled to by his office.

The volume of sermons now under review is the production of a man, whose reputation stands high, as a divine; and where he chances to be personally known, it may be perused with interest and profit. But the general character of the sermons is such, that we must first reverence the man, before we can be edified by them. They do not however exactly come under the class of negatives, though the author appears to have thought, as Goldsmith observes many preachers of excellent sense and understanding in England believed, that 'a prudent mediocrity is preferable to a precarious popularity.' But while he seems to have been studious to act up to his creed, his practice lies the wrong side of it. For he is positive in one point, and negative in another. He has many noted deficiencies, as a writer, but, should we judge from his sermons, is nothing remarkable, as a thinker.

His sermons, it is true, are characterized by plain good sense, but nothing more is attempted. It must be regretted, that they are not conducted in a manner better calculated to engage the at-

tention of the young, to whom they are particularly addressed; to inform their heads, and to improve their hearts, by engaging their feelings and amusing their fancy. But this is far, very far from being the case. The style is truly a dry one. It is so sententious, that every thing is forced, and there appears to be no continuity in the ideas. The method too is not sufficiently clear, and by this fault the most important sentiments are degraded, and the finest style, though it may please for a moment, entirely loses its efficacy. To speak plainly of these sermons: if any one has had perseverance to peruse them, we do not say he will regret it, yet we may safely affirm he will have no desire to repeat his labour.

They compose an octavo volume of about five hundred pages, handsomely and correctly printed on wove paper.

ART. 29.

Geography an amusement; or complete set of geographical cards, by which the boundaries, situation, extent, divisions, chief towns, rivers, mountains, lakes, religion, and number of the inhabitants of all the countries, kingdoms, and republicks, in the known habitable globe, may be learned by way of amusement in a pleasing and satisfactory manner. By several persons, conversant with maps, and who have made the science their particular study. Burlington, N. J. published by David Allinson, sold by Brisban & Brannan, agents for New-York and the New-England states, Copy-right secured.

TO those, who consider the importance of education in general,

this method of blending amusement with instruction will be highly pleasing. There are but few of the sciences, which young people might not attain a competent knowledge of, in a way, that should render their most pleasing recreations a source of fruitful information. The compilers of these cards have ingeniously substituted the game to the purposes of improvement. They are correctly printed, with a neat type, in various colours, according to the divisions of the *Grand Atlas*.

Like the 'Family Budget,' and other ingenious inventions of this nature, it deserves the patronage of all parents and teachers, who would assist the memories of their pupils and smooth the rugged road of science.

ART. 30.

A sermon, preached in the second congregational church, Newport, Nov. 9th, 1806 : the Lord's day succeeding the death of Miss Abigail Potter. By William Patten, A. M. Newport, R.I. printed at the office of the Newport Mercury. 1807.

Two months elapsed between the delivery and publication of this sermon. The author had therefore sufficient opportunity to weigh well its merits, and his auditors sufficient time for their feelings, however they might have been excited at the instant, to subside, and to submit that to the cool decision of judgment, which the momentary enthusiasm might have led them to suppose was a performance of a superiour kind, calculated to edify the religious, and gratify the literary part of the community!

We do not say, that it falls below criticism; for, except in one

instance, there is no departure from common sense. Nor can the author expect a particular notice of his work; for the faults of style are so numerous, that the task of criticism would be endless. We meet with the most commonplace ideas, conveyed in the most commonplace manner. There is nothing, which appears calculated to soothe and comfort an afflicted spirit; but all is cold, methodical, and unfeeling. If any one should take up this sermon with the hopes of meeting with consolation in his sorrow, he will only lose time by a perusal of it; and will derive much more comfort from the letters of the deceased lady, printed with it, which bespeak devotion of heart and propriety of reflection.

The instance of departure from common sense, to which we alluded, is the following. He says,

'2dly. That for those who are pleasant to be taken away is distressing.— It is so

If we consider the event in relation to them, or the evil they have experienced. In being brought to death, they suffered much affliction, and are subjects of a great change. Their soul is separated from their body, and their body lies in a state of ruin, incapable of performing or enjoying any good. They are separated from all their connexions and from all prospects of usefulness, and have *no more a concern in any thing that is done under the sun*. As those are evils and have befallen those, in whom an interest was felt, it must cause great distress for them.'

The text of this sermon is from the 2 Samuel, i. 26. And it is difficult to conceive what could induce its publication, unless it was charity for the printer, who, like the hangman in the days of Queen Bess, must have been 'starving for want of a job.'

ART. 31.

Want of patronage the principal cause of the slow progress of American literature; an oration, delivered before the society of Φ B K, on the anniversary, &c. By Samuel F. Jarvis.

Sint Mæcenates, non deerunt, Flacce, Marones.
MART.

New-Haven, Steele & Co. pp.
22. 1806.

THIS subject is so important, that we desire to see it comprehensively treated by a man of greater observation, and with more liveliness of style, than is displayed in this performance; though it is not destitute of merit. The causes of the little estimation, in which learning is held, are the almost universal pursuit of wealth, which makes us adopt the easiest modes of acquiring it; and the want of discipline at our colleges, which, in fact, prevents us from having many learned men to patronise. In a note we find one of the reasons, which unhappily give this subject great interest:

'St. John's College, in Annapolis, was founded in the year 1784, and was enabled, by its charter, to hold an annual income of 9000*l.* currency; 1800*l.* of which it actually possessed. The number of students was about 100, and the instructors were men of abilities and learning. This, together with Washington College, in the county of Kent, which was also liberally endowed, constituted the University of Maryland. After repeated attempts, however, in some of which they met with a partial success, the legislature of that state, during the autumn of 1805, succeeded in depriving both these colleges of their funds, and consequently degraded them into private seminaries.'

Is the state of Maryland striving for a lower degradation, than Rhode-Island, or Vermont, have yet reached?

Violations of the minor rules of grammar, particularly in punctuation, are so common, that many think regulations are arbitrary.— Before relative pronouns a comma is usually of service, and we learn its use from its absence in this oration.

The awkward sound of the obsolete '*mean*' (for cause or instrument) is three times repeated; but Priestley would have taught the orator, that the word '*means*' does not change its termination on account of number. *Vide Murray. Syntax.*

His words are not always precise. '*Induction*' is used for conclusion; and the '*reverse of a proposition*,' for the converse. We may appear over nice in marking blemishes in so short a performance; but the immense majority of this kind of productions is unworthy of criticism, and we are solicitous to expose the negligence even of scholars. A more striking fault must not escape:

'Application is the soil, which produces the fruits; Genius is the sun, which, by its invigorating warmth, causes those fruits to ripen, and vegetation to become more rapid.'

O most lame and impotent conclusion!

ART. 32.

Two better than One; a sermon, delivered Dec. 4, A.L. 5805, on the installation of King Hiram's Lodge, in Provincetown. By Brother Jotham Waterman, pastor of the east church of Christ in Barnstable. Boston, printed by Manning & Loring. 1806.

THIS sermon is a literary curiosity, and we sincerely beg pardon of Brother Jotham, for having so long omitted to review it; more particularly, as in his very copious

notes he honours the Boston Reviewers exclusively with his notice.

We will first begin with the sermon, the text of which is taken from Ecclesiastes, ch. 4, verse 9, and the first of the 10th.

In this discourse Brother Jotham undertakes to prove, that *two are better than one*, except in the case of two sinners, and there he ingeniously discovers, that 'two are not better than one.' Brother Jotham exhibits more of a *gait* than a *style*, if he will allow us the same privilege of punning, which he claims himself.

'May heaven bless every institution that makes us such friends; that obliges us to be kind not only to our own, but to all our fellow men, travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. O ye Samaritan and Jew! Blessed Masons!'

P. 7.

'Befresh yourselves, brethren. It is full time. We have laboured. But let us proceed to labour again. Amen.'

P. 11.

'The man, who lives a *recluse*, cannot be so intelligent, as one, who has been *conversant* with different men and societies.'

P. 12.

True, brother Jotham, and if *you* had travelled, you would not have used such words as *disconnexion*, *undesireable*, and *unfeeling*, as a substantive; nor would you have told us of nature's *receiving its final convulsion*. A *contusion*, indeed, may be received; and if received in a certain part, is very apt to disorder it. We sincerely hope, that *you* have met with no accident of the kind.

Brother Jotham, in his notes, has no mercy on us poor Reviewers. He calls us '*full-grown monarchists, a little junto of little men in and around Boston, a set of thorough-faced slanderers*.'

This is very severe; but would he really punish us, he will publish no more, which will certainly deprive us of much amusement, and many a hearty laugh.

CATALOGUE OF NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, For MAY, 1807.

Sunt bona, sunt quædam mediocria, sunt mala plura.—MART.

NEW WORKS.

A Geographical Account of the United States; comprehending a short description of their Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral Productions, Antiquities, and Curiosities. By James Mease, M. D. member of the American Philosophical Society, and corresponding member of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester. Philadelphia, Birch & Small. 1807. 8vo. \$1 50.

A Letter addressed to the people of Maryland, giving an account of the country on the South Shore of Lake Erie; including a brief description of the climate, soil, productions, commerce, trade, and manufactures. By James Tongue, M. D. &c. of Maryland. Washington, Westcott & Co. 25 cts.

Vol. IV. No. 5. Mm

The Picture of New-York, or the traveller's guide through the commercial metropolis of the United States, New-York, Brisban & Brannan.

American Pleader's Assistant, being a collection of approved Declarations, Writs, Returns, &c. By C. Read, Esq. 5 dollars, in sheep. Philadelphia.

No. V. of the Christian Monitor: a religious periodical work. By a Society for promoting christian knowledge, piety, and charity. Containing a serious call to a devout and holy life. 12mo. pp. 192. 30 cts. boards. Boston, Munroe & Francis.

No. XI. of The Philadelphia Medical Museum, conducted by John Redman Coxe, M. D. 8vo. 50 cts. Philadelphia, Thomas Dobson.

The Juvenile Spelling-Book, being an easy introduction to the English language. Containing easy and familiar lessons in spelling, with appropriate reading lessons. Calculated to advance the learners by easy gradations, and to teach the orthography of Johnson, and the pronunciation of Walker. New-York, Smith & Forman. pp. 168. thick wove paper. 12mo. 1807.

A new classical selection of Letters; interspersed with some original productions, designed for this work, on the following subjects, viz. business, duty, friendship, love, marriage, &c. with miscellaneous pieces in prose and verse, suited to both sexes. To which is annexed, petitions on various subjects, &c. and the declaration of independence of the United States of America. 12mo. pp. 132. Boston, John M. Dunham. 1807.

A sketch of the Proceedings and Trial of William Hardy, on an indictment for the murder of an infant, Nov. 27, 1806, before the Supreme Judicial Court, holden at Boston, within and for the counties of Suffolk and Nantucket, on the second Tuesday of March, 1807. Reported from the minutes of one of the counsel for the defendant. Boston, Oliver & Munroe. 8vo. pp. 47. 1807.

God's Presence removes the fear of death; a sermon, preached at Barnstable, Feb. 14, 1807, at the interment of the Rev. Oakes Shaw, A.M. pastor of the west church in that place; who departed this life Feb. 11, 1807, in the 71st year of his age, and 47th of his ministry. By Jonathan Burr, A.M. pastor of the congregational church in Sandwich. Published at the request of the committee. Boston, Manning & Loring. 1807. 8vo. pp. 28.

Ministerial fidelity illustrated and urged; a Sermon, delivered at Milton, Feb. 18, 1807, at the ordination of the Rev. Samuel Gile, to the pastoral care of the church and society in that place. Published at the request of the people of Milton. Boston, Belcher & Armstrong. 8vo. pp. 40. 1807.

Memoir of the Boston Athenæum, with the act of incorporation, and organization of the institution. pp. 32. 8vo. Boston, Munroe & Francis.

Facts and Documents concerning Captain Joseph Loring, jun'r's case: and also the Proceedings of the last Court-Martial; being a vindication of the conduct of the legislature. Boston, 1807. Price 25 cts.

NEW EDITIONS OF WORKS.

Sugden on the Law of Vendors and Purchasers of Estates. Price bound in calf, 6 dollars. Philadelphia, Wm. P. Farrand.

Abridgment of the Laws of Nisi Prius, part I. Price bound in calf, 4 dollars. Philadelphia, Farrand.

Vol. IV. Part I. of The New Cyclopaedia, or Dictionary of Arts and Sciences. By Abraham Rees, D.D., F.R.S., editor of the last edition of Mr. Chambers' Dictionary, with the assistance of eminent professional gentlemen. First American edition, revised, corrected, enlarged, and adapted to this country, by several literary and scientific characters. 4to. Price \$3.50 for the half-volume. After the publication of the 5th vol. the price will be \$4. Philadelphia, S. F. Bradford.

The Complete Navigator, or an easy and familiar guide to the theory and practice of Navigation; with all the requisite tables, &c. illustrated with engravings. By Andrew Mackay, LL.D., F.R.S., Ed. &c. author of the Theory and Practice of finding the longitude at sea or on land, &c. To which is added, a concise system of calculations for finding the longitude at sea, by the lunar observations. By P. De-lamar. Philadelphia, W. P. Farrand, and Etheridge & Bliss, Boston. T. & G. Palmer, printers. 8vo. pp. 222.

Bosanquet and Puller, vol. 1. New Series. Price 5 dollars, bound in sheep. Philadelphia.

A Chemical Catechism for the use of young people, with copious notes and a vocabulary of chemical terms, &c. By S. Parks, Manufacturing Chemist. Price to subscribers 2 dollars 50 cents. Philadelphia.

A Portraiture of Quakerism; taken from a view of the education and discipline, social manners, civil and political economy, religious principles and character of the Society of Friends. By Thomas Clarkson, A. M. author of several Essays on the Slave Trade. In three volumes. New-York, Samuel Stansbury. 1807. 8vo. \$5.

Poems of Madam Guion. Philadelphia, Farrand. 62½ cents bound.

Scott's Lay of the last Minstrel, in a neat duodecimo volume; price in boards 87 1-2 cents. Also his Ballads, being a new work. Price in the same form \$1. Philadelphia, Hopkins & Co.

Bible 8vo. with Canne's notes ; printed on a Brevier letter. Price, bound, 3 dollars. Fine paper 3 dollars 50 cts. Philadelphia.

Orations, delivered at the request of the inhabitants of the town of Boston, to commemorate the evening of the Fifth of March, 1770 ; when a number of citizens were killed by a party of British troops quartered among them in a time of peace. Second edition. Boston, published by Wm. T. Clap, 88 Fish-street. 1807. Greenough, Stebbins & Hunt, printers. pp. 200. 12mo.

The Trial of the British Soldiers, of the 29th regiment of foot, for the murder of Crispus Attucks, Samuel Gray, Samuel Maverick, James Caldwell, and Patrick Carr, on Monday evening, 5th March, 1770, before the Hon. Benjamin Lynde, John Cushing, Peter Oliver, and Edmund Trowbridge, Esquires, Justices of the superiour court of judicature, court of assize, and general goal delivery, held at Boston, by adjournment, Nov. 27, 1770. Boston, Belcher & Armstrong. 8vo. pp. 120. 1807.

Ballads and Lyrical Pieces. By Walter Scott, Esq. Boston, published and sold by Etheridge & Bliss, No. 12, Cornhill. 1807. 12mo. pp. 180.

Village Sermons : or plain and short discourses on the principal doctrines of the Gospel ; intended for the use of families, sunday schools, or companies assembled for religious instruction in country villages. In 3 volumes. By George Burder. *Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.* Third American edition. Boston, E. Lincoln, Water-street. 1807. 12mo.

The Dangers of the Country, by the author of War in Disguise. Philadelphia, Samuel F. Bradford.

Select Lives of Foreigners, eminent for piety ; containing biographical sketches of the Archbishop of Cambray, Michael de Molinis, Peter Poiret, Antonia Bourignon, Marquis de Renty, Francis de Sales, and Gregory Lopez ; together with directions for a holy life, and the attaining christian perfection, by the Archbishop of Cambray. Philadelphia, R. & T. Kite. 50 cents.

Geographical Compilation for the use of schools, being an accurate description of all the empires, kingdoms, republicks, and states in the known world, with an account of their population, government, religion, &c. arranged in a catechetical form, compiled from the best American, English, and French

authors. By Denis Lewis Cottineau, teacher of geography. Norfolk, Vir.

Vicar of Wakefield. A beautiful edition of this valuable book has been published by B. B. Hopkins & Co. of Philadelphia. \$1.

Nautical Almanack for 1807, 1808, 1809 ; with useful additions, particularly the Moon's declination, calculated every 6th hour, for finding the latitude at sea. Philadelphia.

WORKS IN THE PRESS.

....

John West and O. C. Greenleaf have in press, a continuation of Cumberland's Memoirs, written by himself.

Macanulty & Maxcy, of Salem, have in the press, Abbot on the Law of Shipping, in one volume octavo.

Daniel Johnson, of Portland, is printing a Treatise on Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes. By Joseph Chitty, Esq. of the Middle Temple.

T. B. Waite, of Portland, is about putting to press, Blackstone's Commentaries.

An elegant edition of Cowper's Poems, in 3 vols. comprising many of his poems, which have not hitherto been included in his works. Boston, Manning & Loring, E. Lincoln, and J. Cushing.

Graham's Birds of Scotland. Boston, John West. 12mo.

American Ornithology, or the natural History of the Birds of the United States : comprehending those resident within our territory, and those that migrate here from other regions ; among which will be found a great number of land and water birds hitherto undescribed. Specifying the class, order, and genus to which each particular species belongs : following, with a few exceptions, the arrangements of Latham. Describing their size, plumage, places of resort, general habits, peculiarities, food, migration, &c. &c. By Alexander Wilson. This work will be printed in a large imperial quarto, on a vellum paper, and issued in numbers, each containing 3 plates, 13 inches by 10, containing at least ten birds, engraved and coloured from original drawings, taken from nature. The numbers to be continued regularly every two months, until completed.—Upwards of 150 of the drawings are already finished, and the plates for the first number nearly ready ; which, if sufficient encouragement offer, will be published

early in the ensuing autumn. The extent of the work cannot at present be precisely ascertained: it is conjectured however, that 100 plates may comprehend the whole, forming 2 volumes 4to. The type for the letter-press entirely new, and of singular beauty. Price to subscribers \$2 each Number. Philadelphia, Samuel F. Bradford.

Scott's Commentary on the Old and New Testament. Three vols. of this work are completed. The 4th volume is now in the press. Price to subscribers 11 dollars 50 cents, to non-subscribers 14 dollars bound. Philadelphia.

Shakespeare's Plays, a very neat edition in Royal 12mo. Seven vols. finished. \$2 50 per vol. Philadelphia.

Vol. III. of Massachusetts General Laws. 8vo. Boston, Manning & Loring.

Oddy on European commerce to be published in two 8vo vols. price 2 dolls. per volume. Philadelphia.

Debost's Elements of commerce. No price announced yet. Philadelphia.

A Theological Dictionary. By Charles Buck. Containing definitions of all religious terms, &c. Together with an accurate statement of the most remarkable transactions and events, recorded in ecclesiastical history. 2 vols. 8vo. \$2,25 per vol. Philadelphia.

The Wonders of Nature and Art; or a concise account of whatever is most curious and remarkable in the world. By the Rev. Thomas Smith. Revised, corrected, and improved, by James Mease, M. D. in 14 vols, octodecimo, with neat engravings. Price 14 dollars boards, 17 dollars 50 cents bound. Philadelphia.

Thompson, Hart & Co. of New-York, have in the press, Abbe Maury's Treatise on the Principles of Eloquence.

Alsop, Riley & Alsop, of Middletown, Connecticut, have in the press, and will speedily publish, 'A Picture of the Present State of the Empire of Bonaparte, and of his Federal Nations; or, The Belgian Traveller; being a tour through Holland, France, and Switzerland, during the years 1804 and 1805. In a series of letters from a nobleman, a native of Brabant, to a minister of state, edited by the author of the Revolutionary Plutarch, etc.' This work will consist of one large volume, octavo, containing about 500 pages, price in boards \$2,50.

Douglas' Reports, 2 vols. Cowper's Reports, 2 vols. Harrison's Chancery

Practice, 2 vols. Tidd's Practice in the court of King's Bench, in personal actions, are now in the press of Wm. P. Farrand, Philadelphia.

WORKS ANNOUNCED.

E. Sargeant, of New-York, has issued proposals for publishing A New and Complete Dictionary of Arts and Sciences, by G. Gregory, M. D. author of the Economy of Nature, &c. &c. This work will be comprised in twelve parts, of which one twelfth portion will be published monthly, each part containing about 150 quarto pages, at the price of \$2,75. The whole twelve numbers, when completed, will make two volumes, and contain 138 copperplate engravings.

John Watts, of Philadelphia, proposes to publish by subscription, in four volumes 12mo. The Works of Dr. Goldsmith, with a copious account of his life and writings. \$1,50 per vol.

Messrs. John Conrad & Co. of Philadelphia, are about to publish, in 2 vols. crown octavo, Memoirs of Anacreon, translated from the original Greek of Critias of Athens, by Charles Sedley, Esq. including the Odes of Anacreon, from the version of Thomas Moore, Esq.

J. Robinson, of Baltimore, has in the press, a pathetick and sentimental Novel, entitled Dangerous Friendship, or the Letters of Clara d'Albe. Translated from the French, by a Lady of Baltimore. 1 vol. 12mo. price \$1.

Lucius M. Sargent, of this town, proposes publishing by subscription The Works of Tibullus. This work will comprise between eighty and an hundred pages 12mo., the text formed from the best opinions of former editors accompanied with the various readings, and the life of Tibullus, together with a few necessary notes. Price \$1 in handsome boards.

Proposals have been issued in Philadelphia for publishing a new work by Dr. B. S. Barton, Professor of Materia Medica, Natural History, and Botany, in the University of Pennsylvania, called, the 'Elements of Zoology, or Outlines of the Natural History of Animals.' I. It is proposed to publish this work on a plan, in most respects, different from that of any other writer on the same subjects. It will embrace, 1. An outline of what is commonly called the Philosophy of Zoology; that is, the

anatomy and phisiology of Animals, their manners and instincts, their uses, &c. ; together with, 2. Systematick arrangements of Animals, descriptions of the principal genera, and many of the species : also, 3. An explanation of the greater number of the terms that are employed by writers on *all* the branches of Zoology. II. As the work will be the production of a native American, so it will be the studious aim of the author to adapt it, in an especial manner, to the lovers and cultivators of Natural History in the United States. Accordingly, independent of the philosophical departments, these elements will contain the descriptions of a great number of American quadrupeds, birds, serpents, fishes, insects, vermes, &c., not a few of which have never yet been (publickly) described by any naturalist. III. The work being intended as a companion for the author's 'Elements of Botany,' published in 1803, it will, like that work, be printed in an octavo form, of the royal size ; on a good paper, and new type. IV. For the convenience of the purchasers the work will be printed in two volumes, each of which is to contain, at least, 256 pages, exclusive of an index, and contain not less than ten illustrative plates. Subscription price in boards, 5 dollars. The field for the zoologist is so extensive in this country, and the subject heretofore so little attended to, that we may reasonably expect from the talents of Dr. Barton, combined with the peculiar advantages he possesses, a work highly interesting and valuable on the subjects of which he treats.

Captain Lewis has announced his intention of publishing, in 3 vols. 8vo. Lewis and Clarke's Tour to the Pacifick ocean, through the interior of North America, during the years 1804, 1805, 1806. Performed by order of the government of the United States. Also a map of North America, from longitude 9 degrees west of the Pacifick ocean, and between 56 and 52 degrees north latitude.—Subscriptions for these works are received by the principal booksellers throughout the union.

Pious Reflections for every day in the month, in a neat pocket volume. By the archbishop of Cambray. Philadelphia, B. & T. Kite.

Isaiah Thomas, of Worcester, announces the following in the press, and will be ready for publication in a few months :

Denman's Midwifery, 2 vols. 8vo. ; the whole will be comprised in one large octavo volume.

Cullen's Practice of Physick, improved by the celebrated Dr. Reid, of Edinburgh ; 2 volumes, to be comprised in one octavo.

Zollikofer's Exercises of Piety, a very valuable family book, being the second edition.

Schrevellii's Greek Lexicon ; one large vol. 8vo. ; it will be executed on a very nice paper, and a new type.

A new Spelling Dictionary of the English language, in which the syllables are distinctly pointed out, and the parts of speech properly distinguished. To which are added, a concise historical account of the language, and a complete list of all the principal cities, towns, rivers, and mountains, in America. The whole intended for the instruction of youth of both sexes ; to be comprised in a neat, small pocket vol.

Tooke's Pantheon, epitomised, a very valuable little work, which will be decorated with 20 or 30 elegant type-metal engravings.

The Life of Washington, by Rev. Aaron Bancroft, of Worcester, in one octavo volume, is completed, and about being put in the press.

Proposals are issued by Hopkins & Co. of New-York, for publishing by subscription, Lectures on Church History, by George Campbell, D.D. To which is annexed his Essay on Miracles.

An improved Gardener's Callendar ; adapted for the southern states of America, but especially for the Carolinas and Georgia, being an extensive improvement of Squibbs' method. Charleston, S. C. 12mo. \$1.

Thomas J. Rogers, of Easton, Penn. proposes publishing, a valuable and interesting work, entitled, The True Religion Delineated, or Experimental Religion ; as distinguished from formality on the one hand, and enthusiasm on the other. Set in scriptural and rational light.—In two Discourses,—In which some of the principal errors, both of the Armenians and Antinomians, are confuted ; the foundation and superstructure of their different schemes demolished, and the truth, as it is in Jesus, explained and proved. The whole adapted to the weakest capacities, and designed for the establishment, comfort, and quickening of the people of God. By Joseph Bellamy, D.D. late of Bethlem, Conn. With a Preface, by

the Rev. Mr. Edwards. 8vo. pp. 400. Price \$1.50.

W. W. Woodward, of Philadelphia, offers proposals for publishing the Rev. Dr. Gill's Exposition on the whole of the Old and New Testaments, critical, doctrinal, and practical; in which are recorded, the Original of Mankind, of the several nations of the world, and of the Jewish nation in particular, &c. &c.

To be printed in 10 vols. at \$6 per vol. neat sheep binding; \$7 in calf; and \$5.25 in boards, to subscribers.

Proposals are offered in this town for publishing by subscription, A Portrait of the Hon. James Sullivan, from an original painting by W. M. S. Doyle, to be engraved by Gilbert Fox. Price \$1 to subscribers.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

AMERICA.

Provision for a General Survey of the Coasts of the United States.

A FEW years ago a hydrographical survey was made, at the expense of government, of Long-Island Sound.— Since that time, Captains Fosdick and Cahoon, two of the persons employed, have published their chart. Encouraged by the success of this first attempt, a survey was ordered to be made, during the session of Congress, in 1805-6, of that part of the coast of North-Carolina, which lies between Cape-Hatteras and Cape-Fear. Captains Jonathan Price and Thomas Coles performed that service during the last summer. They have made a valuable report of their observations, and accompanied it with a new chart of the coast. In this they consider that Cape-Hatteras shoals are commonly delineated on the maps too far to the west, thereby endangering navigation, by taking up vessels sailing with a supposed sufficiency of sea-room. They have found the bottom of the ocean in those parts to be a loose sand, moveable by the waves, and often with gravel, ooze and shells, and changing its position. There is no probability that a light-house can be constructed on the shoals, nor that buoys, or floating beacons, can be made to withstand the violence of the waves. They have sounded the coast of Capes Hatteras, Look-out, and Fear, quite to the margin of the Gulf-stream. Through the Frying-Pan shoals, off Cape-Fear, they have discovered an opening not hitherto known, ten miles from the land, which may be of great importance to the coasting navigation. For now vessels bound to and from Wilmington may pass through this open-

ing in the shoals in four, five, and seven fathom water, instead of beating round the southern extremity of the flats. The shoals of Cape-Look-Out are the most dangerous to mariners.

Cape-Hatteras light-house is situated in 75° S 30' W. and in latitude 35° 14' 30' N. The shoals extend twelve miles in a south-east direction; and twelve miles farther, in the same direction, is the gulf-stream, with sixty fathom water at its edge. Thus it is twenty-four miles from the Cape to the stream. Cape-Look-Out is in latitude 34° 34' N. and long. 76° 37' W. The shoals extend from the Cape 15 miles in a S. S. E. direction, and the broken ground as far as lat. 34° 20' N. Thence to the gulf-stream the soundings are gradual to 95 fathoms. At Cape-Fear light-house the longitude is 78° 12' W. and lat. 33° 53' N. The extreme southern part of the Frying-Pan shoals is in lat. 33° 35'. In this parallel the shoal runs 12 miles due E. and W.

The information furnished by this second undertaking has been followed by an ample provision for a maritime survey of the whole coast of the United States. In the beginning of Feb. 1807, an act of Congress was passed, appropriating fifty thousand dollars to enable the President of the United States to cause a survey to be taken of the coasts, and of all the islands, shoals, roads, and places of anchorage, within twenty leagues of any part of the shores of the United States; as also the courses and distances between the principal capes and head-lands, and all such other matters as ought to be contained in an accurate chart. This survey is intended to embrace St. George's Bank, and all other banks, shoals, soundings, currents, and memorable things, quite to the gulf stream.

GREAT-BRITAIN.

Sir John Carr is preparing for the press an account of his excursions into Holland & up the Rhine, as far as Mentz.

Walter Scott, Esq. is preparing for publication a new poetical work, to be entitled, *Six Epistles from Ettrick Forest*.

Mr. Burnet has a new work in considerable forwardness, entitled '*Specimens of English Prose-Writers, from the earliest times to the close of the seventeenth century, with sketches biographical and literary, including an account of books, as well as of their authors, with occasional criticisms, &c.*' This work, it is apprehended, will possess some singular and important recommendations. The primary object of the series of specimens, is to illustrate the progress of the English language, from its rise to its complete establishment. The principles by which the author has been generally influenced in his choice of extracts, have been, to select passages curious or remarkable, as relating directly to the subject of language; as possessing intrinsic value as examples of style; as characteristic of the author; or as distinctive of the manners and sentiments of the age. In writers of continuous reasoning, which abound from the reign of Elizabeth, his aim has commonly been to present as clear a view of the general principles of the author, as his limits would admit, and as could be done *in the words of the author himself*; which has been attempted not simply by the selection of those parts where they are distinctly stated, but by frequently conjoining passages distant in place, though connected in sense. Moreover, the work will comprise an account of, and extracts from, most of the ancient chroniclers and historians, who have written in English. Hence it will contribute, together with the interspersed remarks and the occasional sketches of literary history, to elucidate also the progress of manners, of opinion, and of general refinement. There are many obvious advantages in thus exhibiting a view of writers and of their works, in chronological order. It assists the memory, by favouring the most natural and appropriate associations; the celebrated contemporaries are represented, as they ought, in groups; and if the questions arise, Who were the literary worthies that adorned any given reign? and what were their respective claims to distinction? we have only to turn to

that reign, in the work which is here announced, to be speedily satisfied.— Even the incidental mention, in the biographies, of facts in civil history, will tend to awaken the curiosity to become better acquainted with the chain of transactions of which they are links; and thus the reader will be insensibly led to the civil, as well as the literary history of the period. Upon the whole, it is hoped, that the work will prove *entertaining* to many and very different classes of readers, from the variety of its materials; that it will constitute an *useful* manual to the student of our early literature; and that it will be found *convenient*, even by persons already informed in this department, as a book of occasional reference.

Mr. Dyer is proceeding with the '*Inquiry into the state of the Publick Libraries of this Kingdom*,' which was announced by him some time ago. He has had free access to various publick libraries in different parts of England, and has visited every one of those in Scotland; and he proposes, in proportion to his encouragement and opportunities to pursue his researches, till he has completed his design. The *Inquiry* will make three volumes, and is intended to comprehend a short account of every publick library of a particular description in the island, together with such biographical sketches and literary observations as will be naturally connected with such a work.

At the opening of the present month will be published a weekly literary and scientific Journal, called, '*THE DIRECTOR*;' the principal object of which, will be the diffusion of such intelligence as may serve to shew the state of literature, science, and the fine arts in the metropolis and the other parts of the empire. Connected with this important object, it will supply a regular account of the Lectures at the Royal Institution, and of the proceedings, not only of that, and the London and British Institutions, but (as far as may be obtained) of the Royal Society, Royal Academy, the British Museum, & of the Societies of Antiquaries and Arts.

The imperial printing establishment at Paris affords constant employment for 400 workmen.

Mr. John Pinkerton is preparing for the press a *New Modern Atlas*. It is proposed that this Atlas shall consist of at least an equal number of maps with those of the new edition of Mr. Pinker-

ton's Geography, but of the size called Atlas, so as to correspond with the celebrated works of D'Anville. These maps will be delineated with all the superiour advantages afforded by the late improvements in geographical precision, and engraved with the utmost beauty that the state of the arts can admit, so as to be a national and perpetual monument, worthy of the first commercial country in the world, and from whose exertion and enterprise have arisen the most recent and important discoveries. Each map will be drawn under Mr. Pinkerton's own eye, revised with the utmost care; and will form, like the works of D'Anville, a complete record of the state of science at the time of publication. Table lands, chains of mountains, and other features which belong to the natural geography of each country, will be indicated in a new manner, and with an exactness not to be expected from geographers who are unacquainted with that branch of the science, which is, however, so essential, that without it no country can be truly represented, nor works on natural and civil history perfectly understood. In the other parts, which illustrate civil history, equal care shall be exerted, not to insert obscure hovels and villages, while places remarkable in historical record are totally omitted. Instead of careless positions, arising from the blind imitation of antiquated maps, the greatest attention shall be bestowed, that every position be conformable to the latest astronomical observations, and, in default of these, to the result of the best itineraries, and other authentick documents. The expence and labour of drawing and engraving such an Atlas, must necessarily be very great, and only capable of being repaid by a country in the first state of opulence. But while the merely ornamental arts have met with a most liberal encouragement, in the publication of literary monuments of great expense, it may be hoped, that the work, uniting great and lasting utility with beauty and magnificence, will not be neglected by a discerning publick. It is supposed that the whole expence of this Atlas, executed in a more capital style than has ever been before attempted, may be about 20 or 25 guineas; and it is proposed that it shall be published in numbers, each containing two or three maps.

A new edition of Warton's valuable History of English Poetry is prepar-

ing for the press; it will be continued to the time of Pope by an editor of celebrity.

EDITORS' NOTES.

IN this number we present our readers the memoir of the Boston Athenæum. Our most confident hopes and warmest wishes have been gratified by the ample patronage, which has been bestowed on the institution, by the munificent merchants and liberal gentlemen of all professions in this town. Subscriptions for more than one hundred and thirty shares, at \$300 a share, have already been obtained; so that the sum already subscribed amounts to more than \$9,000 dollars. Several valuable donations in books have been made to the institution within the last fortnight, and the list of annual subscribers has been much increased.

On this event, so honourable and useful to our city and to our country, we congratulate the publick. The bands of society are multiplied by literary and social institutions. Real patriotism can exist in the hearts of those only, who have been accustomed to venerate and cherish with affection those establishments which are the ornament and support of civil society. It has been justly observed by Edmund Burke, *that if we would love our country, we must render our country lovely.*

All the newspapers and periodical publications we receive in interchange for the Anthology are deposited in the Athenæum. We cannot therefore urge too powerfully on the printers of the newspapers and literary journals in the different parts of our country to attend particularly to the early and regular transmission of their publications. We shall also be very grateful to booksellers and printers in any part of the United States, who will have the goodness to send to us any books or pamphlets immediately on their publication. Catalogues of publick libraries, of museums, and botanical institutions, literary projects, &c. &c. are also most respectfully solicited.